

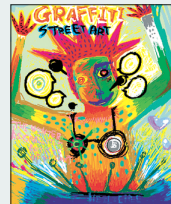
Foreign lenses
capture local
life for the
Olympics.

Page 8



Affordable
art work for
the low-income
highbrow.

Page 10



Vandalize the
Internet! Graffiti
outlets for your
inner urban
artist.

Page 17

Curtains for 798 Art Fest



The annual Arts Festival, held in the 798 Arts District throughout the Golden Week, will come to an end Saturday. The event is the first art fair held at the 798 Art District since it was officially

declared a base for the creative industry last year. Over 80 artistic groups are sharing their works in the festival, which has attracted many art enthusiasts and casual visitors.

CFP Photo

**'Olympic
Magazine
Games' comes
to Beijing**

Page 2

**Job crunch
crushes
graduate
couple**

Page 3

**The first
'Atom Town'
opens to
the public**

Page 4

**Forbes to
cancel China
Charity List**

Page 7



China tightens control over foreign hydrological projects

By Chu Meng

Foreign organizations or individuals in China will require government approval before conducting any hydrological projects in the country, a new State Council regulation issued this Monday.

Hydrological projects, including hydrological surveying, monitoring and forecasting, are primarily concerned with studying the properties, distribution and circulation of water.

The regulation, which will come into effect on June 1, states that hydrological organizations should report to local govern-

ments as soon as they detect changes in water quality that could potentially indicate instances of water pollution.

Moreover, hydrological organizations are now expected to strengthen their monitoring of changes in water flow and quality that could potentially threaten the security of water use.

The State Council regulation also states that hydrological forecasts should only be released to the public by relevant government departments or authorized hydrological organizations -- other organizations and indi-

viduals are not allowed to release the information.

Those that flout the new law and conduct hydrological activities without authorization will be fined 50,000 to 100,000 yuan.

China believes that the new regulation will help to regulate the quality of foreign involvement in Chinese hydrological projects.

The new law comes after a similar regulation restricting surveying and mapping by foreigners issued in January.

Like the new law concerning hydrological activities, January's regulation, which was brought into

effect in March, stated that any foreign organizations and individuals who wish to survey or map the country, must first gain approval from the central government.

The regulation, issued by the Ministry of Land and Resources, also forbids foreigners from conducting land surveys, aerial photography, mapping administrative borders and drawing navigational maps.

What is more, foreigners must be supervised by local authorities, cooperate with a Chinese partner and their activities must not jeopardize national security.

Beijing to clean up waterways

By He Jianwei

Water quality monitoring will be enhanced and the environment of the 29 kilometer-long urban rivers within the sixth ring road will be upgraded by the end of this year, an official from Beijing Water Authority said Wednesday.

All rivers within the sixth ring road of the city will have been thoroughly cleaned, Bi Xiaogang, vice director of Beijing Water Authority said at the press conference about urban river and lake water treatment and protection.

In order to protect the water quality of rivers and streams, a variety of natural, living organisms have been placed in the rivers throughout the central areas of Beijing.

"Natural ecological materials are used to protect the river banks and the river beds and we are using natural plants to purify our water. Cement banks and river beds have been removed," he said.

"Before the harnessing of the Qinghe River, its water was filthy and it was not possible to walk near it without covering your nose," he said.

The Qinghe River's harnessing project with the total investment of 640 million yuan has finished the first stage of construction. The second stage is still in its planning phase.

'Olympic Magazine Games' come to Beijing

By Huang Daohen

A global congress of magazines, commonly known as the "Olympic Games of the Magazine Industry" will be held in Beijing from May 13 to 15.

More than 1,000 representatives from over 40 countries and regions will take part in the 36th International Federation of Periodical Press (FIPP) World Magazine Congress in Beijing.

Under the theme "magazines enrich your world," discussions will focus on hot topics concerning the development of the magazine industry worldwide. A number of subjects will be discussed including the development strategy for digitalizing "traditional" magazines, increasing advertising as well as the ever-changing tastes of readers.

Time Warner and National Geographic representatives will be taking part, said Zhang. Many world-famous media figures will be present, including Patrick McGovern, founder of International Data Group, US, Jack Kliger, President of Hachette Filipacchi Media, France, and Masahiro Oga, President of Shogakukan, Japan.

Li Dongdong, Vice Minister of the General Administration of Press and Publication, said the hosting of the congress will greatly help China's magazine publishers participate in the cooperation and competition with international magazines.

Pond besides the National Theatre



The National Theater, Beijing May 8, 2007. The pond has a capacity of 14,000 cubic meters

Xinhua Photo

Millions of tourists flock to Beijing for the May Holiday

By Han Manman

A record 4.86 million tourists from China and abroad flocked to Beijing over the week long May holiday, 8.4 percent more than last year, according to the Beijing Leading Group for Holiday Tourism on Monday.

Tourism during this period generated 4.167 billion yuan in revenue, 6.2 percent more than last year and 93 percent of the

visitors said they were satisfied with their trip to Beijing, one percent increase from last year.

Traditional tourist sites such as the Forbidden City and the Badaling section of the Great Wall are still the most popular attractions in Beijing.

A record 440,000 visitors flocked to the Forbidden City over the holiday, generating 23 million yuan in ticket sales. The

Beijing Happy Valley theme park received 185,000 visitors. It generated 26 million yuan in revenue, making it the most profitable tourist destination over the May Day holiday.

With so many tourists visiting the city, many local residents prefer to travel to China's rural areas. More than 60 percent traveled outside Beijing during the holiday period.

As for the whole of China, it witnessed a record high of 179 million domestic tourists during the holiday, up 22.7 percent from last year, according to official figures.

Fifteen people were killed and seven others injured in accidental fires over the week-long holiday, the police announced on Tuesday.

According to the information from the Ministry of Commerce, from May 1 to May 7, total retail sales of consumer goods reached 320 billion yuan, up 15 percent from the same period last year, with the catering business increasing by 17 percent.

Five major accidents killed 249 people in China

By Qiu Jiaoning

China's State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) yesterday released information concerning five major accidents. The accidents caused 249 deaths and direct economic losses of 95.13 million yuan over the past two years.

A total of 133 individuals were punished, including 51 people who have been handed over to authorities, according to Chen Changzhi, vice minister of the

Ministry of Supervision.

"These individuals broke the law by exposing workers to poor and unsafe construction sites and dangerous working conditions" said Li Yizhong, head of SAWS.

Four of the five major accidents happened in coal mines: a gas explosion resulting in 108 deaths at the Liuguantun coal mine, Tangshan, Hebei province in December 2005; a gas and coal dust explosion result-

ing in 32 deaths at the Wayaobao town coal mine in Yan'an city, Shaanxi province in April 2006; a gas explosion resulting in 47 deaths at the Jiaojiazhai coal mine in Shanxi Province in November 2006, and a gas explosion resulting in 32 deaths at Changyuan coal mine in Qujing, Yunnan province in November 2006.

All these mines violated regulations. Liuguantun coal mine, for

instance, built construction sites which violated regulations. "Individuals involved altered or forged official documents and organized the construction of sites without going through the proper inspections, said Li.

The newly constructed pit of the Wayaobao town coal mine, as another example, had none of the required licenses and conducted mining activities well beyond their approved areas.

Job crunch crushes graduate couple

By Jiang Xubo

Pressures to find a job drove a graduate couple to double-suicide in a Changchun, Jilin Province, residential building last weekend. The local police who found the two on Tuesday said the couple locked themselves inside and turned on the gas two days before, *Chengshi Wanbao*, a Jilin paper, reported.

The young man surnamed Ji, 21, died on a bed, and his 19-year-old girlfriend surnamed Wang died in the aisle to the kitchen. The

second-floor apartment belonged to Ji's grandmother, and Ji had lived there since his parents divorced to start new families.

The couple left a computer turned on with a suicide note that read, "It was too hard to find a job, and life was so tough," the police said.

A neighbor smelled the gas in the morning and phoned police. The police sent for the grandmother, who had been away for a visit with her young

daughter several days before, but her key was unable to open the door. Ji's father entered the house from the balcony to find the couple dead.

Police believe the couple killed themselves on Sunday.

"Children born in the 80s and 90s usually have high expectations for life after growing up with their parents' support. They snap easily when they are forced to stand on their own feet," Qiao Fengjie, a psychiatrist from local

Yixin Psychological Clinic, said, "The children need to find moral support from families, friends and the society, and not rely merely on careers and love. Parents need to teach their children how to survive setbacks."

As few as 72 percent of the country's 410 million graduates found a job last year, and the number of graduates this year is expected to hit 500 million, a spokesman for the Ministry of Education said.

Tour museums for free, Friday

By Jackie Zhang

In observance of International Museum Day, 26 Beijing museums will be open to the public for free next Friday.

A series of events will be held in Beijing museums for the following week. Cultural relic experts will be invited to help citizens authenticate collections and to give lectures.

Around 100 museums in Beijing will hold a total of 80 exhibitions in collaboration. For example, the Beijing Museum of Ancient Architecture will hold an exhibition about the Olympics in China; the China Railway Museum will hold an exhibition on the country's railway history; an exhibition on Confucius Temples 'round the world will be held in the Confucius Temple in Guozijian — the Imperial college since the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

This year's Museum Day theme is "Museums and Universal Heritage."

Top-name museums open for free:

Yanhuang Art Museum
National Museum of Modern Chinese Literature
Mao Dun's Former Residence
Xu Beihong Memorial
Beijing Art Museum
Beijing Museum of Ancient Architecture
China Railway Museum

Brief news

Children wait for blood cells

There are now over 700 children with leukemia awaiting medical treatment. The Red Cross appealed for people to assist the children this Tuesday, World's Red Cross Day.

Fewer killed in accidents

As many as 30,750 were killed in traffic accidents during the first four months of this year, down some 13 percent from the same period last year, State Administration of Work Safety officials said.

Cancer is the top killer

Cancer was the most lethal illness in the country's urban areas last year, Ministry of Health officials revealed on Monday, citing the results of a survey conducted by the ministry in 30 cities and 78 counties.

BOCOG needs translators

The Beijing Olympic Games Organizing Committee is appealing for an additional 4,000 volunteer translators for the upcoming games scheduled for August 8-23 next year. Anticipated volunteers cover 56 languages around the world, most of which are minor languages where it is not easy to find qualified translators.

Slashing price of medicine

Over 260 medicines, including pills, injections and herbals, will undergo price slashes ranging 20 to 60 percent in local pharmacies starting May 15, National Development and Reform Commission officials said.

Yuan breaks the 7.70 mark

The country's currency, the yuan, broke the 7.70 mark for the first time on Tuesday, the Chinese Foreign Exchange Trading System reported.

(By Zhao Hongyi/ Jiang Xubo)

Laowai volunteers as rural teacher

King, a foreign teacher from Huaibei Coal Formal College in Anhui Province, came to the Caili Primary School in Lieshan district in Huaibei on Wednesday, where he taught and played games with the children. The event is part of the annual program "Support The Rural Education" conducted by the college.

CFP Photo



No need to sell her golds

By Jackie Zhang

Ai Dongmei, former champion of several international marathons, signed a contract to be the promoter of a sanitary product company in Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province, Tuesday. The contract earned Ai 100,000 yuan, relieving her from financial pressure and ending the effort to sell her gold medals.

"My family's financial condition has improved, and we have nothing to worry about now," she said.

Together with a 20,000-yuan donation Ai accepted from Huang Naihai, a Nanjing citizen, and 100,000 yuan from Nanjing Daluge High-tech Stock Company Limited for being an honored employee, Ai has a total of 220,000 yuan.

"I talked with my husband and we plan to start a women's clothing store," she said.

When Ai began selling her medals online in desperation, she found care and help from many places. "It never occurred to me that so many people might want to help me. I had considered starting my own small business, but we had to put it on hold because of financial troubles," she said.

Her daughter will begin attending a kindergarten near her home starting June. After that, she said she and her husband will have more time and energy to focus on their business.

Ai said she thanked the kind people for coming to her rescue, and intended to persist in her suit against coach Wang Dexian, who, she alleged, embezzled hundreds of thousands yuan of her prize money.

New meaning for 'walking advertisement'

By Huang Daohen

"The space is available for advertising," scrawled in beautiful characters is not the adornment one would expect to find on a young man's body.

The man, 25, surnamed Liu, loitered in the CBD area during Golden Week attempting to make his body a mobile advertising space. He was picked up by the police for his unusual behavior and questioned on Monday.

Wearing a white hat, a T-shirt hanging down to his knees with his QQ and phone numbers printed on the back, Liu went to Wangfujing Street on Monday afternoon. Aside from his off clothing, Liu's

forehead, cheeks, legs and other exposed body areas were marked with the words.

"I plan to use my body as a living billboard. I can go stand in the place designated by advertisers," Liu said. He has agreed to wear temporary tattoos or logos supplied by potential advertisers. Compared to street billboards, Liu said his advantage is mobility.

"I can go everywhere the advertisers want to spread their message," he said.

Liu, an art fan from a rural area in Hebei Province, said he came to Beijing a month ago but failed to find a job. He hoped to earn money through body advertising. He said

the price of the ad would depend on its size and location on his body.

Liu's behavior attracted a lot of attention. Some supported him and said it was very innovative and full of personality, but others said calling it a "body advertisement" was a bad idea, because it sounds like something related to prostitution.

The plainclothes policeman who took Liu away for questioning said any advertising business has to go through formal legal procedures. "Liu's behavior is too bold, and we should not support it," he said.

Thus far, Liu has not received any offers from advertisers.

Elderly Beijinger shows sports collection

By Jackie Zhang

The past half century, Zhang Wanjin, 85, has collected souvenirs from sports events. He has opened an exhibition in the Huji-alou Street Office, which will run until the end of next month.

Zhang's collection has already been shown dozens of times in China, and also showed in Sydney during the Olympic Games. This time, most of his collection — including badges, flags and signatures of Chinese Olympic gold medalists — are on display.

His collections are displayed everywhere in his home. Thus far, he has collected over 700 team flags from different countries and events, and more than 10,000 souvenir badges — including thousands from the 20th to 29th Olympic Games.

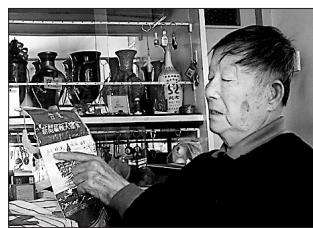
He also has collections of

sports key rings and hundreds of sports cups, most of which he won himself in ping-pong matches.

Most of Zhang's collection was amassed through trades. He even set up stands in the stadium in the Asian Games Village to exchange badges with athletes, and also bought souvenirs at a high price.

Zhang worked in the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Sports, and was mainly responsible for ping-pong. In 1950, he was champion of the first Beijing Ping-Pong Competition, and began his collection with the championship flag he won.

In 2001, when Beijing was bidding for the 2008 Olympic Games, Zhang Wanjin held a series of exhibitions to show his collection in Beijing. "I keep collecting because I hope that one day, the Olympic Games can be held in China. When I heard of



Zhang Wanjin has collected over 50 years. Photo by Jackie

Beijing's success, I was happy and excited," Zhang said at the time.

When Beijing won the bid, a crew from PPS Radio America came to visit him twice about Chinese enthusiasm for the games and shot a short TV program about him.

Zhang plans to stop collecting after the Beijing Games. "I'm old now, and my health is poor. My dream of a Beijing Olympics has come true. It is a good note on which to end my collection."

The first 'Atom Town' opens to the public

By Han Manman

The command center of China's first nuclear weapon base where its atomic and hydrogen bombs were developed is now open to the public.

How did China successfully develop two bombs? Where were they made? Who was involved? These issues have been hot topics for many years, and now that it has opened, it should attract visitors who can finally unlock these mysteries for themselves. The local government predicts that it will become a very popular tourist destination.

Seeing is believing

The weapons research and production base, now called Xihai Township, is in northwest China's Qinghai province.

Visitors are allowed to visit its underground research laboratory and command room.

"The base will become a key tourist facility, and will be transformed into a site to foster and maintain the patriotic spirit of the Chinese nation," local official Zuo Xumin said, adding, "The underground headquarters of the nuclear weapons research and production base are a curiosity to many people. They can see the 'nuclear city' for themselves."

According to Zuo, the command center of the base consists of eight large rooms 9.3 meters below the ground and built with reinforced concrete, including a carrier room, distri-

bution room, ventilation room, command room, and electric generator room.

Visitors can visit all these rooms.

Birthplace of the bombs

Also known as "Atom Town," the research and development base is a milestone in the nation's construction history. This former underground base, and former state-run 221 Factory, was where China successfully launched its first atomic bomb. Three years later, it tested its first hydrogen bomb.

Built in 1958 over more than 1,100 square km (680 miles) of grasslands in northern Qinghai, it was an underground, reinforced concrete bunker, which originally contained the main research laboratory. However, it was closed by the central government in 1987 to support the demands for a complete ban on the destruction of the nuclear weapons. The local government disposed of its nuclear weapon facilities after the central government examined that it was in accordance with its regulations.

In 1995, the Chinese government announced to the world that its first nuclear weapon base was officially closed. It became a state-level demonstration base of patriotism education in 2005. And last year, the government allocated 93 million yuan (11.6 million U.S. dollars) to better preserve the base.



The plaque of the Atom Town



(above) The first group of tourists visit the nuclear weapons base.
CFP Photos



(left) A wax figure at the command center shows the daily work of the staff in the bomb development.



The overview of the Atom Town

Electronic fishing machines ruin Guanting reservoir

By Chu Meng

Guanting reservoir – once Beijing's largest fishing spot – is in serious danger because of rampant illegal electronic fishing machines, which have been used for years, even during the non-fishing seasons.

Water from Guanting reservoir that serves as Beijing's fourth-biggest source of drinking water covering Huailai County in Hebei Province and Yanqing County in Beijing is unfit even for irri-

gation, the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau reported as early as the end of 2006, underlining the gravity of China's water pollution problem.

The report said that water in the Guanting reservoir fell short of level five on the country's scale of water quality. Water at levels one to three is considered drinkable, level five is only fit for irrigation.

To improve water pollution and cultivate a healthier environment, Hebei Province along with the Beijing Municipal government conducted a two-year long non-fishing experiment from

January, 2005 to 2007.

However, during the spawning season, (April 15 to August 15), hundreds of boats with electronic fishing machines continued on the reservoir after midnight.

These fishing boats are owned by nearby villagers and they fish everyday from midnight to 4am. Smaller boats do their fishing on the sly while the bigger crafts have lights for all to see. They all use diesel motors, which are noisy and can be heard from hundreds of meters away.

A villager, who is also a fish vendor in Huailai County said, "Each boat can catch about 250

to 400 kilograms each night with electronic fishing machines, depending on the size of the boat. It is easy and low cost to catch these wild fish. Villagers do not need to invest in cooking, the bait to catch them, or even water management."

He added, "Besides, these wild fish have been very popular in the market over the past couple of years. Customers to high-end restaurants love eating wild fish, especially fish from the spawning season. Restaurants can sell them at higher prices because they taste a lot better."

However, excessive fishing

negatively affects ecological system of a reservoir. Electronic fishing is even worse.

The Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau has reported that around half of the lakes and ponds in the city's scenic spots were so polluted that they could not be used for irrigation.

China faces a serious water pollution problem that is compounding water shortages in many cities.

The environment bureau said earlier this week that pollution of Beijing's water supply was getting considerably worse.

China acts on food safety after US pet poisoning

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (GAQSIQ), reported on its website Wednesday that two Chinese companies illegally added a deadly chemical to food products blamed for killing thousands of US pet dogs and cats.

Beijing, China (aqsic.gov.cn) – Xuzhou Anying Biologic Technology Development Co Ltd in Jiangsu Province and Binzhou Futian Biology Technology Co. Ltd in Shandong Province illegally added melamine to wheat gluten and rice protein in their products. The two companies slipped through the net by label-

ing the exports as products that did not require inspection.

Police have launched an investigation and detained company officials.

GAQSIQ has taken urgent measures for stricter administration and quality control on all exporters, which are linked to the plant protein products industry.

Inspections of some 400 samples of other exported products across the country, including Beijing, Tianjin, Jilin, Shandong, Hebei, Hubei and Fujian had found no more cases of melamine contamination.

GAQSIQ has notified the FDA of their investigations and will cooperate on food safety with the US.



A pet dog waiting for a check up at a Miami clinic.

A recent pet food recall has affected over 130 brands of food in the US. The tainted food causes kidney complications in cats or dogs. A recent survey conducted by Petplace.com shows that pet owners are turning to their own food cooked at home to feed their pets.

US pet lovers turn to table scraps to avoid tainted food

Boca Raton, Florida (emediawire.com) – In a short period of time, over 3,500 respondents expressed concerns about feeding their dogs and cats pet food. Over 22.2 percent of respondents are feeding their cats and dogs leftovers from their kitchen tables.

Pet food recall could be just the beginning

Los Angeles (AP) – The food safety net that couldn't catch poisoned pet food ingredients from China has a much bigger hole.

Billions of dollars' worth of foreign ingredients that Americans eat in everything from salad dressing to ice cream get the tick of approval according to an AP analysis of federal trade and food data.

Well before contaminated shipments from China killed 16 cats and dogs and sickened thousands more, government food safety task forces worried about the potential human threat – ingredients are hard to quarantine.

When FDA inspectors at ports and border checkpoints look, they find shipments that are filthy or otherwise contaminated. They rarely bother to stop them, however, because ingredients are not a priority.

Because these oils, spices, flours, gums and the like haven't been blamed for killing humans, safety checks before they reach the supermarket shelf are effectively the responsibility of US buyers. As the pet deaths showed, the system is far from secure.

The states saw its latest expansion of pet food recall as Menu Foods, one of its major pet food providers, added more items on its recall list early this month. Menu Foods initiated a nationwide recall in mid March on pet food after cases of pet poisoning were detected. Other pet food producers, including Del Monte Pet Products, Hills Pet Nutrition, Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, have joined the campaign and recalled over 100 different brands of pet food.

US recalls more contaminated pet food



Pet owners picking up pet food at local shops in Miami, Florida.

CFP Photos

Schaumburg, Illinois (rushprnews.com) – Menu Foods added 220 products to its existing recall list early this month. The expanded list now includes additional "cuts and gravy" style pet foods and select other products that do not necessarily include contaminated wheat gluten but have been affected by

cross-contamination.

The products on the expanded list of recalled foods were manufactured in Menu Foods' plants during the same period that contaminated wheat gluten was used at those plants, and they are being recalled now due to the possibility of cross-contamination.

Things you may like to know about the contamination of pet food. And here are FDA's answers to part of the frequently asked questions.

Q: What is wrong with the pet foods?

FDA laboratories have found a substance called melamine in samples of pet food and in the wheat gluten used as an ingredient in the pet food. Additionally, Cornell University scientists have found melamine in the urine and kidneys of deceased cats that were part of a taste test-

ing study conducted for Menu Foods.

Q: How many sick or dead cats and dogs have been reported to FDA?

To date, the agency has received over 10,000 complaints. Confirmation that these may be related to the pet food recall takes time and requires follow up by our field staff. Veterinary reports and other evidence need to be collected for each case before any of these reports can be confirmed. In many instances there is insuffi-

cient information available to draw a conclusion about a possible association with pet food consumed and pet illness or death.

Q. Did the contaminated wheat gluten from China get into the human food supply?

At this time, we have no evidence to suggest that any of the imported wheat gluten from the suspect firm has entered the human food supply.

(Source: fda.gov)

(By Jiang Xubo)

Spitters fined as Beijing cleans up for Olympics

Beijing (AP) – China has fined more than 50 people in Beijing for spitting over the past week as part of a bid to improve the city's image leading up to the 2008 Olympic Games. Xinhua news agency said inspection teams from Beijing's management department visited major tourist areas such as Tiananmen Square to stop people from spitting and littering during the May Golden Week.

The officials also handed out more than 10,000 garbage bags to tourists. Bad manners have been a constant worry for Chinese officials, who see the Olympics as a chance to impress the world.

Found treasure on ancient sunken ship

Beijing (AFP) – China's archaeologists have discovered over 10,000 pieces of porcelain and other relics on an ancient ship that sank in the South China Sea more than 700 years ago.

The ship dates to the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) and measures 20 meters (66 feet) in length with a displacement of up to 60 tons, the *Hainan Daily* said. Eleven cabins were still intact along the bottom of the boat's wooden hull.

Experts believe the ship's origins come from present-day Fujian province along China's south eastern coast. Much of the porcelain was made in China's famous manufacturing centre of Jingdezhen.

The ship is one of ten ancient sunken vessels that have been located in the disputed Xisha islands, also known as the Paracel Islands, in the South China Sea.

Beijing's pandas work overtime for holiday crowds

Beijing (Reuters) – The pandas in Beijing's zoo have been working overtime to allow a flood of holiday visitors a glimpse of the country's favorite animal, Xinhua reported on Saturday.

The pandas, together with the zoo's less famous attractions, are on display an extra half hour to accommodate the 100,000 visitors expected each day of the week-long national holiday.

Four times as many zoo workers are on duty to take care of the animals and visitors as temperatures soared over 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit).

Some animals had a worse holiday than the pandas. The city's most famous Peking duck restaurant sold nearly 20,000 ducks over the first three days of the holiday, Xinhua reported.

China kicks off US\$4.3 billion US goods purchase

San Francisco, May 10 (AP) – China kicked off its latest campaign Wednesday in San Francisco with a commitment to buy US\$4.3 billion in US technology.

The deals primarily involved computer software, semiconductor and telecommunications companies. The list of US beneficiaries included high-tech bellwethers Microsoft Corp, Oracle Corp, Cisco Systems Inc and Hewlett Packard Co.

California Lt Gov John Garamendi hailed the agreements as an “important step in furthering the deep relationship between this state, this country and China.”

To underscore China’s resolve to explore more US investments, executives from more than 200 Chinese companies are meeting with their US counterparts in 24 cities scattered across 23 states, Ma Xiuhong, vice minister of Chi-

na’s Ministry of Commerce, said.

She met with Gov Arnold Schwarzenegger at the state Capitol, and the governor later said California had nearly doubled sales to China.

California exports to China totaled nearly US\$10 billion in 2006, Schwarzenegger said.

“The marketplace is now the whole world, and that offers tremendous growth potential for our companies, but our competition

is also worldwide,” Schwarzenegger said in a prepared statement.

Already boasting the world’s largest population, China has become an increasingly attractive market for makers of high-techs.

Criticism against China revolves around the yuan’s under value against the US dollar.

US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson is expected to focus on the issue during his May 23-24 meetings with Chinese counterparts.

Yahoo sees China for online ad exchange

Santa Clara, May 10 (AFP) – Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang said China is fertile ground for an online advertising exchange akin to the one the US Internet titan is buying.

The comment was among insights Yang shared with more than 1,000 Chinese and US technology entrepreneurs gathered in Santa Clara to discuss opportunities and challenges presented by the meteoric growth of China’s economy.

In August 2005, Yahoo invested one billion dollars for a 40 percent stake in Alibaba, which also agreed to run the Chinese operations of the US Internet giant.

The ad exchange serves as a place where advertisers can easily “hook-up” with websites or online services that cater to desired customer demographics.

Kodak to sell film plant in Xiamen

Beijing, May 10 (Bloomberg) – Eastman Kodak Co will sell a plant in Xiamen, including 20 buildings, land rights and public utility equipment to the Xiamen Land Development Co, a municipal authority, for US\$40 million, local media reports.

However, Kodak says it will lease back the facility and continue operations there.

The deal will close by June 30, Kodak said.

The Xiamen facility was the first new film plant in 30 years when it opened in the late 1990s. It was part of a US\$1.2 billion investment Kodak made in China as it looked to increase film sales in the country.

Kodak will produce ink tanks for its new inkjet printers, and a facility for digital printing plates will open on the site later this year, sources from Kodak says.

Kodak spokesman Dave Lanzillo said the noncash expense reflects the write-off of assets the company no longer needs for its operations globally.



Local bank sails out

Employees of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) talk to visitors at a financial products fair in Beijing last week.

ICBC says it plans to purchase Travelex, the worldwide foreign exchanger, at an estimated price of US\$1 billion.

Travelex has 650 outlets and 16,000 business clients around the world.

ICBC issued an initial public offering late last year from which it has collected “enough money” for its overseas expansion.

CFP Photo

Tapping new local oil discoveries

By Chen Shasha

A new oil field has been discovered in Bohai Bay with a reserve of one billion tons, the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) announced on Monday this week.

The enormous Nanpu oilfield is the largest discovery in the country in four decades. It is

located in the Nanpu block of PetroChina’s Jidong Oilfield in Caofeidian in Tangshan, Hebei Province. The block, partly offshore, covers 1,300-1,500 square kilometers and is expected to produce light crude.

This year’s production target for the Nanpu oilfield is 2.2 million tons, Hu Wenrui, vice-pres-

ident of PetroChina, said. “By 2012, we expect the oilfield to roll out 10 million tons of crude every year,” he said.

Currently, China imports 160 million tons of oil annually. Zhou Dadi, director-general of Energy Research Institute, said the new oil field is expected to supplement China’s energy needs.

Iran, China to ink 10 dam projects

Tehran, May 10, (IRNA) – Iranian deputy energy minister Rasoul Zargar said that a US\$2 billion agreement of 10 dams will be signed by Iran and China in two weeks.

He told IRNA that foreign investors warmly welcome dam and power station projects, adding that particularly European and Asian countries are keen to invest in Iran.

The deputy minister dismissed the news about the blockage of finances on Iranian projects

as incorrect.

Expounding on the situation of domestic investment in the water sector, Zargar said that “despite the reluctance of domestic investors to invest in any project, we are doing our best to build tow dams in Bushehr and Zanjan provinces by attracting domestic investment.”

“We will attempt to finance the credits required for ten dam building projects in the current Iranian year, started March 21.

“Tenders on five dam proj-

ects are being held and the winners will be declared in three months.”

He noted that the relevant five dams are to be built in Ardebil, West Azarbaijan, Gilan, Fars and Lorestan provinces.

“On account of such a project, we managed to harness the flood water and use it to irrigate the farmlands in Dasht Zabol.

“Therefore, the rate of cultivated farmlands in the area increased 3-4 folds and reached about 90 hectares,” he said.

PwC named accountant for Beijing Olympics

Beijing, May 10 (Reuters) – Beijing has named PricewaterhouseCoopers as the accounting services supplier of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

PwC will provide financial advisory services in areas of budgeting, financial planning, and internal-control to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and to China’s Paralympics, BOCOG, the Chinese Olympic Committee and China’s delegation of athletes.

Beijing developer eyes HK IPO

Hong Kong, May 10 (Reuters) – Property developer Beijing Glory Real Estate Development aimed to raise US\$300 million in a Hong Kong initial public offering by the end of this year.

Beijing Glory, a unit of mainland real estate investment firm China Glory Investment Group, is one of several Chinese property developers planning Hong Kong listings this year.

Beijing Automotive eyes US\$1 bln IPO

Hong Kong, May 9 (Reuters) – Chinese carmaker Beijing Automotive Industry Holding, DaimlerChrysler’s partner in China, plans to raise US\$1 billion in an initial public offering in Hong Kong later this year.

Beijing Automotive, which also has a joint venture with Hyundai Motor, has selected Deutsche Bank as one of the arrangers of the deal, according to the *South China Morning Post*.

Shoe chain plans US\$1.1 bln IPO

Hong Kong, May 10 (Bloomberg) – Belle International Holdings, China’s largest retailer of ladies’ footwear, may raise as much as HK\$8.7 billion (US\$1.1 billion), in a Hong Kong initial public offering.

Belle, with about 3,828 footwear and sportswear outlets in China, is raising money to expand its retail network as well as production and warehouse capacity.

China Power enters renewable energy

Hong Kong, May 10 (Reuters) – China Power International Development Ltd, an independent electricity generator, said it planned to invest 24-30 billion yuan (US\$3.12-3.89 billion) in renewable energy by 2010.

The company is also studying a yuan denominated A-share issue, Li Xiaolin, China Power’s CEO, said.

Forex reserve agency to operate

Beijing, May 10 (XFN-ASIA) – Wei Benhua, deputy director of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, said China’s foreign exchange reserve management agency will start operations by the end of the year.

Wei said the new agency will buy foreign exchange reserves from the central bank, standing at US\$1.2 trillion, using the funds raised from yuan-denominated bond issues.

Forbes to cancel China Charity List

Comment

It is good news that Forbes will cancel its China charity list. It means foreigners will become more and more reasonable and sensible about the charity situation and shortcomings in China. Meanwhile, their cancellation points out the irrationality of China's philanthropy system, regulations and laws.

— Liang Xiaomin, famous Chinese economist

No transparency, no credibility. If Forbes cannot collect sufficient credible data and relative information, how could it release the list?

— Chen Yizhou

Social donation is a means for individuals, government organizations and non-government organizations (NGOs) to provide public products and services. The main reasons why social donations in Chinese universities are relatively low are as follows: (1) independent NGOs have not been formed; (2) the system and mechanism of social donation are not perfect and (3) many restricting factors of social culture still exist in China.

— Li Huaizu, a professor from Xi'an Jiaotong University

Though all kinds of Forbes lists are seen as the most authoritative ranges and accepted world wide by many other countries, it is not necessarily suitable to the social conditions of China. In ancient times, Chinese followed a philosophy of "do not let other people know your wealth." This philosophy is widely accepted and carried on from one generation to another. Therefore, a large number of rich people and celebrities either donate money secretly, or donate money directly to the poor instead of through charity organizations.

— Yi Mi Ru Lan



Russel Flannery, Forbes' Shanghai bureau chief, is seen troubled by the questions raised by Chinese media at the Top Richest Chinese press conference held last November in Beijing.

Flannery leads a team that works on the top Chinese lists, including the three-year-old "Top Charity Chinese" list. But he seems troubled again this time and has to claim a stop on the list. CFP Photo

By Chu Meng

Forbes has announced plans to cancel its China philanthropy list from this year.

The bi-weekly business magazine entered China in 1999 with the launch of its first "China's

100 Richest" list.

In 2004, Forbes began to publish a list of the top philanthropist citizens.

Zhang Xiaohua, marketing director of Forbes China, explained to local media that

the cancellation of the philanthropy list was mainly due to the immaturity of the charity sector in China and the unwillingness of numerous affluent people of having their wealth disclosed and their names published.

Zhang has not disclosed when the list will be resumed.

Hurun, a competitor of Forbes, said that it won't follow suit. Currently there are 100 entrepreneurs on Hurun's charity list.

Is 'Golden Week' still golden?

By Annie Wei

The glorious holiday is now over. Some people seem happy with no work for seven days, some complain about visiting their families or relatives in the countryside, some brag about traveling abroad and others exaggerate about all the tourists crowding the capital.

Since implementing the three golden holidays in 1999 — Spring Festival, May Holiday and the October Holiday — to boost domestic consumption, some are beginning to question whether these holidays are actually helping people relax. Are there other, maybe better solutions or alternatives?

The first golden holiday in October 1999 brought in 28 million nationals and 14 billion yuan in revenue.

Things got even better in the second year, with a revenue of 23 billion yuan. Although the total consumption increased every year, the growth rate declined.

Over the past nine years of Golden Week, the negative efforts seem to be getting more serious.

Wang Xin, vice-manager of Beijing Jingshi Tiancheng Tour-

ism Planning Consulting Company, said that the sudden influx of tourists in huge numbers had caused damage to the environment: tourist spots are packed with people; prices in the service industry rose dramatically; tourists complained about the poor service they received.

Research conducted on holiday system reform by a team from Tsinghua University shows that from 2000 to 2005, the Golden Week Holiday's consumption was not as dramatic as what was expected.

Ji Baocheng, president of People's University released a proposal that detailed how to increase China's traditional festivals as legal holidays, and canceling the May or October holidays during the National People's Congress meetings.

Some experts disagree the Golden Week holiday is becoming meaningless.

Liu Simin, executive editor of China Travel newspaper said, "Although Golden Holiday is a compulsory event, it does guarantee that average persons like workers, office assistants and migrant workers have seven days off from their job."

Comment

People are everywhere. What else would you expect to see? You are lucky to see the street full of people. Otherwise, you would only see trash everywhere.

— Zheng Xiaozhou,

a pharmacy factory designer
If you want to see something, you need to fight a path through people; if you want to do something, you need to wait in line. Most of time, you cannot even find a restaurant that is not full of people.

— Qiguale

Having seven days off is extremely tiring. All we got were a ton of pictures. By the way, we had to work the weekends before the holiday. So, we haven't had a day of rest for two weeks.

— Meng Hui,

from an IT company

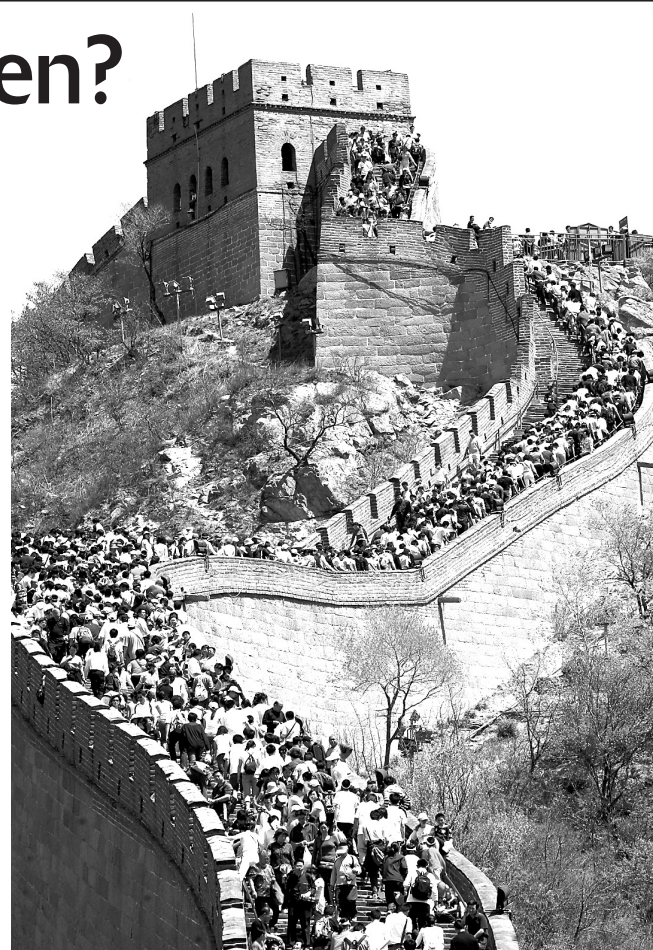
I know there will be people everywhere. That's why I did not want to leave home. I slept over the holiday.

— Li Juan, assistant,

Forever auction house

I know people complain a lot, but I think it's still great to have a week off work. I mean, at least you do not have to work, do you?

— Vivi Lim, reporter



With the huge population and huge potential purchasing power, the 'Golden Weeks' have to play as the economic power engine for another decade. CFP Photo

International photographers shoot Beijing for Olympics



Reinhard Krause from Germany photographs people practicing Tai-chi in Financial Street yesterday.

Photo provided by Beijing Foreign Cultural Exchanges Association

By Gan Tian

Ten famous international photographers gathered yesterday morning at Beijing's Financial Street to attend the opening ceremony of the Olympic City Photo Project.

The Project is sponsored by the Publicity Department of Beijing Municipality and the Media and Communication Department of the Beijing Orga-

nizing Committee. These ten photographers will focus on Beijing's preparations in the countdown to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

The ten photographers are Christophe Agou, Yann Layma and Gilles Sabrie from France, Kenneth Jarecke, Harry Mattison and John J Torrente from the US, Ian The from Malaysia, Jose-Luis Mejias from Spain, Mochizuki Hisashi

from Japan and Reinhard Krause from Germany.

This afternoon, they will shoot the city from all kinds of locations at the same time. Their work titled "Photographing Beijing at One Precise Moment" will be shown to the public as part of a photography exhibition to be held next Wednesday.

As one would expect, each photographer sees the capital

through their own "photographic eyes."

"I rode a bicycle in Beijing for many days, cycling through scores of streets and alleyways and observing all kinds of architecture. I want to share these with people all over the world," Mattison said. Torrente loves the people in this city the most. He was particularly captivated by a migrant labourer.

Foreign crew is to create local musical

By Gan Tian

World famous musical director Wayne Fowkes from UK and stage lighting Olivier Goulet from Canada were invited to Beijing for the rehearsal of Chinese musical *Butterflies*.

This local show will enlist the help of several big international names, including general director Gilles Maheu, playwright Jean Barbe, lights director Alain Lortie and dance designer Dazza Charles from the UK.

The general director Gilles Maheu is one of the leading directors in Canada. He has directed the musical *Don Juan*. "I believe in a theater of emotion, a theater of the body. The stage is the source of fire, a hurricane, a storm where primal and dangerous forces clash," Maheu said.

Director Wayne Fowkes, who produced *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Cinderella*, stated that Chinese performers are "excellent when they dance together, but as individuals, there is much room for improvement. My job is to get them to find new ways to express themselves. They should not be afraid to express their emotions," he said.

Language is perhaps the biggest barrier between foreign directors and Chinese performers, but Fowkes is not overly concerned. "My job is physical. I use body language, movements, and other means to explain myself. They [Chinese performers] appear to be very shy," he said.

Olivier Goulet is in charge of the multi-video part of the musical. This is his first time to China and he is thoroughly enjoying the experience of working alongside Chinese performers. He had some communication with local designers. "It's so hard to express myself, but I have an excellent interpreter," he said.

There are obvious cultural barriers. The musical is based on a famous local opera from Zhejiang province called the *Butterfly Lovers*. In this adaptation, two lovers die in a big fire but are transformed into butterflies. This story is known to all Chinese. The Chinese crew spent much time explaining the cultural background of the story.

Both sides are happy with how the musical is coming along. "It is very exciting that people in China are inviting directors and other musical production people from overseas. It also gives me a wonderful opportunity for cross-cultural collaboration" said Fowkes. "It's now time for Chinese musicals to make further leaps and bounds. That's why we envisaged a project like this one. It's great to work with a team of local and international artists," The musical's producer Li Dun said.

Butterflies is written by Chinese and Canadian playwrights. It brings together elements of classical Chinese regional opera and Western music. The combination should prove to be fascinating for both performers and audiences alike.

BOCOG launches foreign media service guide

By Han Manman

To facilitate foreign media organizations and foreign journalists' reports on the Beijing Olympic Games, The Beijing Organizing Committee (BOCOG) officially launched the "Service Guide for Foreign Media Coverage of the Beijing Olympic Games and its Preparatory Period" on Wednesday.

The publication of the Guide follows the promulgation of the "Regulations on Reporting Activities in China by Foreign Journalists during the Beijing Olympic Games and its Preparatory Period," which officially went into effect on January 1.

The Guide is comprehensive and provides detailed information on a number of topics including visa applications, customs clearance, travel, employment of Chinese mainland citizens, rental of housing and offices, temporary driving permits, tax and insurance with the relevant media organizations and broadcasting rights.

The Guide also provides a "One-stop" section for the international media to help them solve any problems that may occur during their coverage of the Beijing Olympic Games. It is a 24-hour service provided by the Beijing Olympic Media Center.

Foreign ballet teacher gives lessons to chinese gymnasts



By Gan Tian

Rednic Adriana Mariana, Romania well-known ballet dancer from France was invited to give one-month ballet lessons to

Chinese female gymnasts during the May Day holidays.

Mariana has been a frequent visitor to China since 2002. After a few years of ballet training

under Mariana, members of the gymnastic team have seen a great improvement in their flexibility and movements.

Photo by Sun Xianxiao

An American's bid for Olympic family status

EU 50th birthday exhibit in Beijing

By Han Manman

The European Union (EU) will open an exhibition on Wednesday's Europe Day in Beijing University to bring the EU closer to China.

Serge Abou, EU ambassador to China, Xu Zhihong, president of Beijing University, and Chen Haosu, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and president of the China EU Association, opened "The EU at 50," a special information exhibition, to mark "Europe Day" and help Chinese people have a closer look at the EU.

The exhibition, in cooperation with the Centre for European Studies at Beijing University, opened in the exhibition hall of the university's library.

Xu, Abou and Chen spoke about the growing partnership between the EU and China, and how "Europe Day" and the exhibition provided an opportunity for Chinese visitors, especially students, to learn more about the EU and its member states.

The exhibition was produced by the Delegation of the European Commission to China, and will be shown in a number of locations and cities in China during 2007 as the EU celebrates its "50th birthday" – the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome on 25th March 1957. The exhibition at Beijing University is the second stop of the tour before it heads for Shanghai in June.

The exhibition will be based on a flexible, modular structure in two concentric circles of exhibition panels. At the centre, there is a projection area with seating that will show a 20-minute special feature film for the anniversary. The film can be shown in English or Chinese.

The organizers hope the exhibition will reach an interested Chinese public that may have basic knowledge about the EU.

Concert unveils the 35 years Sino-Greek relationship

By Han Manman

To celebrate 35 years of diplomatic relations with the Hellenic Republic, a Greek concert featuring Alkistis Protopsalti will be performed this evening in the Forbidden City Concert Hall.

Dora Bakoyannis, the minister of foreign affairs of the Hellenic Republic who is here on an official visit, will announce the opening ceremony with Michael Cambanis, the Greek ambassador in China.

Greek-Chinese relations are traditionally excellent, and have been developing in all sectors recently, Bakoyannis said during Monday's news conference.

It is significant that this cooperation coincides with the holding of Greece year in China and the hosting of the Olympic Games in China in 2008, she said.

Protopsalti has been a top household name in the Greek musical scene for more than thirty years.

Thirty-three records, most of which have gone gold or platinum, over 6,500 concerts, an impressive voice, originality and passion for interpretation and new suggestions are only a few of Protopsalti's qualities, she said.

Protopsalti has worked with top Greek composers including Mikis Theodorakis, Dimos Moutsis and Stamatis Kraounakis, and participated in the Closing Ceremony of the Athens Olympic Games in 2004.

"A very intense personal connection is transmitted through her concerts to the public, and she receives the absolute devotion of her admirers due to her interpretative powers," *El País* reported.



Dan Reardon and his family look forward to the Beijing's Olympic Games.

Photo by Fan Fan

By He Jianwei

Dan Reardon, an American working in a foreign company in Beijing, and his family have registered as one of the Olympic families in a campaign themed "Olympic Families Tour Beijing" at the end of April.

"Our family slogan may be 'open,' because we hope our baby will be open to new cultures and people and will have an open heart," Reardon said.

Reardon and his wife Molly Lloyd have a 16-month old daughter, Annie. Though they have been in Beijing only three months, colleagues recommended they participate in the campaign.

Dan's family will participate in answering questions about the Olympics and post pictures of themselves in China.

"I've been to all the places – Shanghai, Hong Kong and Qingdao – but we are interested in seeing them again from the Olympic perspective, and in seeing what they are doing to prepare. Even places like Qingdao must be very excited about having the attention and opportunity," he said.

"We like to play tennis together and go swimming, and we both like to win a lot, but we also have a lot of fun when we play tennis. Actually, Molly likes to win the most, she like to compete and win, I have more fun with play, I don't care about winning," Reardon said.

When Reardon heard Olympic tickets were on sale, he decided to buy some as soon as possible. "I think when the Olympics comes, we will have friends and family who want to come

too, so I need to book tickets now," he said.

"I think the opening ceremony would be great to go to. I know it's very tough to get [tickets], but [it's] still worth trying. Which excludes tennis and some events we like might not be very popular in China, and the sports popular in China might not be popular for us – like badminton, that would be good to see, because back in the States, you won't see it aired during the Olympics," he said. "And rugby, maybe we will see some rugby too, but it would be great to see badminton and ping-pong. Those are really Chinese," he said.

The campaign themed "Olympic Families Tour Beijing," which was launched April 9, attracted a total of 1,444 families from 54 countries by the end of last month.

CVA accepts international walkers

By Han Manman

Two walking events organized by the local government and the China Volkssport Association (CVA) are now welcoming foreigners to join.

The organization sometimes receives calls from foreigners who say they used to walk in their home country but have nowhere to do it in China, Jane Liu, a CVA spokesperson, said. They are eager to find a group to continue the activity and to learn about China's history and culture through walking, she said.

To accommodate, the organization decided to organize some walking events for foreigners.

Liu said the next event will be on May 19, when the CAV and Miyun County Government will organize a Simatai Great Wall Walking Event. The Simatai section is located in Miyun County and is one of the best sections. The cost of the walk is 70 yuan per person, including transportation from Beijing to Miyun, and tickets for Simatai. Extra activities include folk art performances, a Beijing 2008 Olympic Games long white cloth signing ceremony, and the CVA 10,000 kilometer walk photo contest.

Another big event this year is the



The previous Great Wall walking CVA organized last year. Photo provided by CVA

International Walling Event around Namtso Lake in Tibet from August 4 to 10. Namtso, means "Lake of Heaven" in Tibetan, and is the first of the famous three lakes in Tibet, and also a well-known scenic spot in Tibetan Buddhism. The cost for the trip is 2,800 yuan per person, not including transportation.

The CVA joined the International

Federation of Popular Sports in April, 2004, and became the first IVV member club in China. They organize walks around Beijing every weekend and organize multi-day walks out of Beijing every month.

For more information, visit chinawalking.net.cn or contact Liu at 8489 6319/20/21.

Affordable fair brings art to more people



The idea of affordable art attracts many visitors at the opening ceremony.

Photos provided by Time Out

By He Jianwei

People in Beijing are able to buy quality contemporary art at reasonable prices at the 2007 Affordable Art Fair (AAF) from May 5 to 12 at Beijing's 798 Art District.

The exhibits include oil paintings, sculptures, as well as prints and photographs. The cheapest pieces will sell for just a couple of hundred yuan.

Many well-known artists, such as Sheng Qi, founding member of Concept 21, one of China's earliest performance collectives, will attend the Art Fair. Sheng will present two paintings: a self-portrait, and the other, a portrait of his left hand.



Whooh! It's closed to burst – from one of the artists, Xiong Lijun

"It's very important for me to participate in such a Fair because for me art serves the people. It's not just something for the middle class, and it's not something only for the filthy

rich. Some artists end up chasing money and forget who they are – they forget that they have something to say. And in the end that's what's important: not the price of the work, but what you want to say," Sheng said.

The organizers, *Time Out*, a local English magazine, and Pébéo, a painting supplier company, totally agree with Sheng's sentiments. Everyone with a passion for art will be able to buy a work, take it home and hang it on their wall without having to break the bank.

The AAF is co-curated by Red-T Gallery. Other artists will include the Sichuan artist Xiong Lijun, whose works already com-

mand high prices overseas.

The young Beijing artist Chen Yu said she was happy to be taking part because the Fair was more democratic than other large gallery shows. "It allows both known and unknown artists alike to show their works. And that's a positive thing because the rich and the not-so-rich have a chance to become collectors," she said.

"It is important for us at Pébéo that we help support young artists and that their works are introduced to the general public. We also like the idea that the Fair is specifically showing contemporary art," Pébéo spokesperson, Ségolène de Marolles said.

A young American skateboarding in Beijing

By Gan Tian

Though Raphael Cooper comes from California, he has already become a permanent fixture of Beijing's local skateboard community. Not only can he speak fluent Chinese peppered with Beijing slang, he has formed a group of skateboard enthusiasts which he calls "The Skateboard Triads."

The Society Skateboards Ltd, as it is officially called, was founded in 2001, made up of a group of kindred spirits who want to have fun. Since then, they have gradually popularized skateboarding in the capital.

"We do many things in the Company such as organizing activities, sporting events, filming and designing. We are now expanding our clothing line. Anything close to skateboarding, we do it. We want our brand to go international," Cooper said. Their staff specializes in different areas across China. "We have the designer Qiuqiu in Beijing, and He Ying doing marketing

in Guangzhou. There are also factories in Qingdao. Communication is not a problem." Within six years, Cooper's "Skateboard Triad" and its related products have been sold in more than ten cities across China.

As the key player of "Skateboard Triad," Cooper appears confident. "I don't know why I love skateboarding so much. It all started back in 1993 when I was still in junior high school." Skateboarding appears to give him a different outlook on life. "You'll pay much more attention to the detail. You'll see what other people cannot notice, such as quality of skateboarding grounds, the movements you make, and the beauty of your body."

"When I first came to China in 2000, everything to me was fresh. New language, new people, new environment – but there were only 200 people doing skateboarding that time. Though this has mushroomed to at least 2,000, the sport is still at the ama-

teur stage in this country."

Finding financial backing for the sport can be quite difficult but this has not deterred Cooper in the least. For this reason, the group has retained its passion and love of the sport without having to be overly concerned about money issues. If there is one piece of advice he would like to pass on to other Chinese skateboarders, it is simply this: "keep skateboarding and have fun."



Raphael Cooper skateboards near the Olympic Garden of Yayuncun, Chaoyang last fall.

Photo provided by Raphael Cooper

Frenchman plans a run of 76 cities to raise HIV awareness this summer

By Annie Wei

Frederic Simon, a 26-year-old Frenchman plans to run through 76 cities this summer as part of his efforts to heighten HIV prevention.

Simon has lived in China for five years and has practised different forms of Chinese martial arts and participated in many martial arts competitions in Henan and Sichuan provinces.

Last year, he set up MMA Beijing, a training academy in Wudaokou, with several friends, providing practical training in boxing, ladies self-defense and cardio-core stretching.

Simon's plan is to run and walk from Beijing to Hong Kong in August. "It has a lot to do with Beijing hosting the Olympic Games next year. I will visit hospitals across the coun-

try and spread my message to educate people about HIV-positive patients."

Simon is looking for sponsorship. "Maybe I can receive some assistance from the Chinese government and some NGOs, as well as pharmaceutical companies." So far, he has talked to some TV stations, including Henan TV station, and some HIV associations in China.

Events

Film and discussion: "Man Made Marvels: The World's Highest Railway"

Michael Stedman, Managing Director of Natural History New Zealand (NHNZ), will present his documentary on the making of the Qinghai-Tibet railway.

Where: Embassy of Hungary, No 17 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, May 17

Spring in the city

Games and activities will be organized by European and US students at the Beijing International School. They will be launching a "Magic Hospital CD."

Where: Beijing International School, No 77 Baizhuan Naner Lu, Chaoyang

When: May 12

For more information contact: Ingrid.obrien@bcis.cn

Bookworm's wine club

ASC wines, China's leading provider of quality imported wines, will present a selection of fine wines for Bookworm's wine connoisseurs. Come and meet fellow wine lovers, improve your knowledge of wine and enjoy a selection of specially prepared canapés from the Bookworm's kitchen.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, May 17

Cost: 150 yuan per head

Please book in advance by calling Jean Martin at 6586 9507.

Book Club Day Group: Mao's Last Dancer

Join China Culture Club's monthly book chat on *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin.

This is the remarkable story of his journey – a "heartening rags-to-riches story and a fascinating glimpse into the history of Chinese-US relations and the life of one individual."

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10:30am-12am, May 16

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

(By He Jianwei)

How to safely take your pets out of the country

By Annie Wei

It's May again, another start of the peak season for adopting new pets and for relocating families. For residents who plan to relocate their families abroad, it's also time to start the process of safely taking their pets out of China.

To provide readers with more information on how to travel internationally with your pets, *Beijing Today* talked with Mary Peng, manager from the International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS), the only western standard veterinary hospital in the city, to share some experiences she has had with her clients.

Check vaccination requirements for the country to which you are relocating

"Requirements on vaccinations may vary country-by-country. Owners must check with the embassy or Department of Agriculture or Centers for Disease Control (CDC) of the country to which the pets are relocating for accurate guidelines on vaccination requirements.

Generally, vaccination dates should be over one month but less than one year before departure. For example, owners relocating to the United States must have their pets vaccinated at least one-month before but no more than 12-months prior to entering the US. Owners should also check to make sure that pets receive required rabies vaccinations prior to departure. China requires evidence like immunity certificate that vaccines have been given at least 30 days before leaving the country," Peng suggests.

Immunity Certificates or 'Vaccination Red Book'

Get the immunity certificate from your local township or government designated pet hospital. There should be at least 30 days from the date of your pet having been vaccinated for rabies to the date of your departure.

"We strongly recommend owners have their pets undergo a complete health exam at the time of vaccinations or before departure to ensure that pets are fit for travel. The stresses of travel and potential exposure to transmittable diseases from other animals during transit pose very real health risks for pets," Peng said.



Cats and dogs arrived in Los Angeles International Airport by chartered jet, in September, 2005.

CFP Photo

The Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau

Take your pet to the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau at least a week prior to departure. Bring your "Immunity Certificates," the "Beijing International Companion Animal Health Inspection Form," and any other official documents to the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau. After inspection, the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau will issue you the official "Animal Health Certificate." "Please note that the 'Animal Health Certificate' is good for 14 days once issued. Please check with the government designated animal hospital and the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau for the latest updates on how long the health certificate is valid once issued," Peng said.

Tips before the flight

- Buy an air transportation crate for your pet. Book a cargo space from the airline three days prior to your flight to make sure your pet will be on the same flight. You should also go to the airline cargo station to make sure you have all the necessary documents.
- Take your pet to the airport cargo station three hours before your departure time, paying the fee and buying insurance. Let your pet crate not your actual pet pass through the X-ray machine.
- Some airlines have special services for pets. Some even allow your pet to be placed under your seat. It's advised to consult with the airline to what their pet policies are, in order to give your pet the most comfortable trip possible.

The International Center for Veterinary Services

ICVS can issue an official immunity certificate or "vaccination red book" for each pet. For non-Chinese speakers, it's easy for them to communicate and obtain the relevant information.

Where: Kent Center, No. 29 Liang Ma Qiao Road, An Jia Lou, Chaoyang.

Tel: 8456-1939 Website: www.ICVSASIA.com

Experience the real China by bus

By Annie Wei

Most people I know do not take buses as much as trains or flights when they travel. The reasons often given are that they travel for business reasons; flights are faster and the company pays for them.

In fact, buses in China are quite convenient if you go somewhere remote. You do not have to wait hours-on-end to actually fly and they arrive and depart at a much higher frequency. They are also getting much cleaner than your average train.



Peasants unload their luggage from a bus back home in Liaocheng, Shandong, in 2005.

CFP Photo

However, getting the actual bus ticket is often not that convenient for expats. If you live in Beijing, you can buy any tickets starting from Beijing, but not from the city back to Beijing due to a poor ticketing network nationwide.

This week, there has finally been a small breakthrough with a trial run set between Beijing and Hengshui, Hebei. If it proves to be successful, all cities in Hebei, as well as Tianjin will set up a ticketing system before July.

At the end of the year, all major cities all over the country are scheduled to join the system.

Most websites for bus tickets in China unfortunately have no English versions yet.

To get them, just look around your neighborhood for those small travel agents with a sign that says, "feijipiao," or "huochepiao" (Flight tickets and train tickets, respectively).

Note that the agent's extra fee for a train ticket is on average five yuan and zero for a bus ticket.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I am sharing an ayi with some friends who live in the same compound. She visits us every day for an hour or so, five days a week. And each of us pays her around 50 yuan per week. Is it too little? What's the normal pay for ayi in Beijing?

The fee for ayi varies from one family to another. Some will prefer paying a much higher fee and some even lower. We think it depends on whether your ayi is comfortable with what you are paying for.

The construction site starts working at 6:30am and ends really late. It is really annoying. Is there any rule or regulation to limit the construction noise? Or is there a number I can call for help?

According to construction regulations in the city, the construction site is allowed to make noise from 6:30am to 10pm. If they make noise after this time, you can call 6567 3877 for complaints. However, if the construction site has a specific license to work overnight, it means they are allowed to make noise even after 10pm.

The yogurt in the supermarket says "original taste," but it is not original at all. It's sweet. Where can you find unsweetened yogurt? And how much?

You can get them at Jenny Lou or April Gourmet. It only costs six yuan for 400g.

As summer approaches, it is apparent that some people smell terribly bad and that some women like to expose their unshaved armpits. How do I broach this subject with them?

Want them to change? Just say it to their face, if you dare.

The opening and closing ceremony of the Beijing Olympics only allows one ticket for one person. My family and I have booked tickets separately. Is it possible that we can sit next to each other?

Although you all have tickets, it has not been determined by the Beijing Olympic Committee whether you will have all your seats together, because ticket regulations aim for people nationwide to have chances to get tickets. For more information, please go to: beijing2008.com.cn.

I heard there is a dog-identity-chip-inserted activity. Can you help me with the phone number to make a reservation?

The activity is run by the Beijing Kennel Club. Their number is 8072 3699. The club is also offering free sterilization now for dogs.

(By Wei Ying)

China Kan Kan

Israeli artists in China



Bike Repair by Dvir Bar-Gal

Photos provided by NY Arts Beijing Space

China Kan Kan is made up of the word “kan” in Chinese (“to see,” “to look”) and a Hebrew word “kan” which means “here.” The word “kan” in Hebrew carries the meaning of “home” – that is – Israel. In other words, these artists see China through the eyes of their own cultural background.

The name also implies that these artists take a new and fresh perspective on how they look at their “home” as well as their new environment. It raises interesting questions regarding the relationship between past-present identities and changing new surroundings – questions that every foreigner deals with when he or she is away from home. The relationship is hopefully an enriching one.

The two curators are Irit Tamari and Nitzan Katz-Wolff. “We are living and finding ways to express ourselves through our art in Beijing,” Nitzan said. “About six months ago we met Abraham Lubelski, the owner of NY Arts Beijing Space. We discussed the idea of holding an Israeli art exhibition in Beijing, which could be a great opportunity to create all kinds of exchange between Chinese and Israeli culture.”



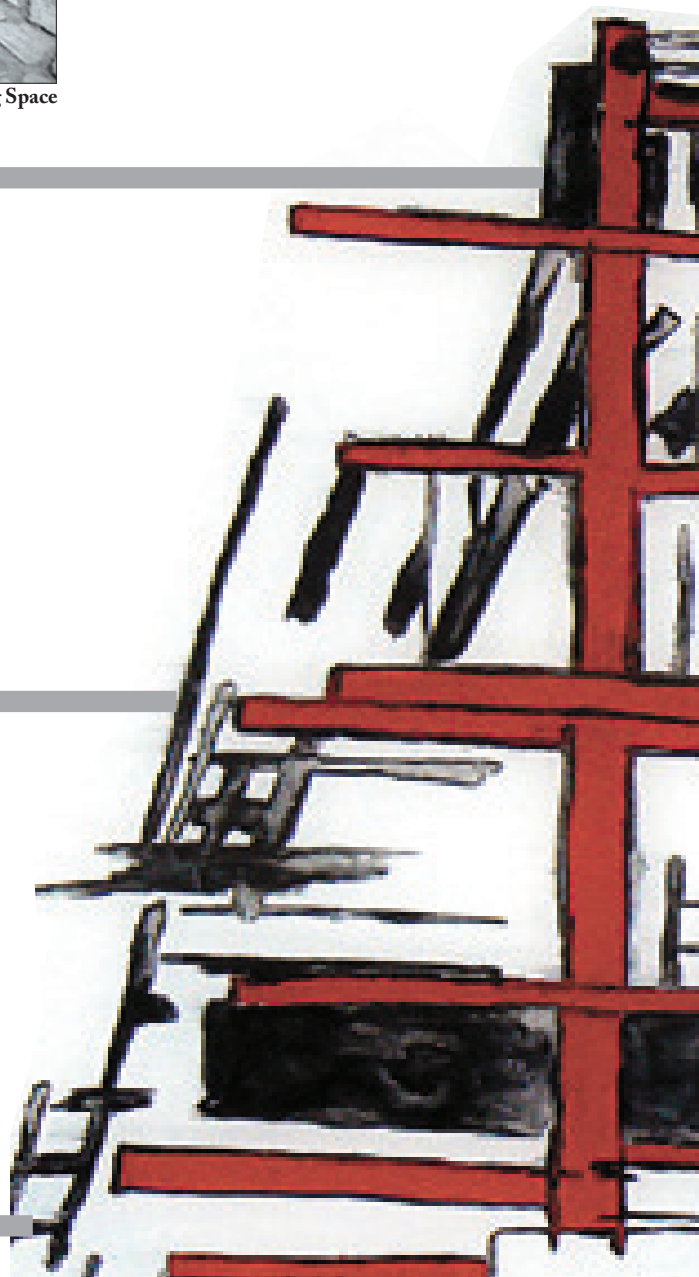
Mother by Yair Lior

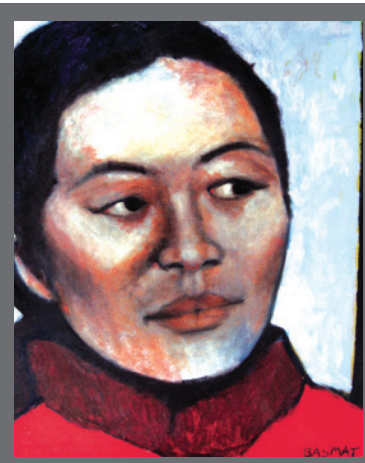


Chinese Girls Rest at A Gymnastic Center in Beijing by Nir Elias



No Title by Irit Tamari





Rose by Basmat Levin

By Qiu Jiaoning

China Kan Kan is an exhibition made up of seven Israeli artists. The exhibition is a mosaic reflecting the impressions and experiences of these artists currently living in China.

Fortunee Noel and transparency

Transparency is central to Fortunee Noel's work. She uses layers of acrylic painting mixed with pigments on Plexiglass – a light transparent weather resistant thermoplastic. "Dongzhimen Construction" and "Worker" are two of her representative works.

"The Chinese capital has validated a lot of my work in the last three years. Beijing is being transformed before our very eyes," Noel said. Alleyways and skyscrapers, symbols of the past and the present, the old and the new, are themes which Noel makes great use of in her art.

Yair Lior and Chinese ink

Yair Lior is famous for large-scale human figurative painting done in Chinese ink, using both Chinese and Western painting techniques. His works deal with the concept of the individual as an iconic representation of humanity and the planet earth.

"I try to tackle issues of culture and humanity using human figures devoid of any racial or religious background to reveal deep layers of their psychology as both emotional and cognitive animals."

Studying and experimenting with Chinese traditional techniques for more than seven years, Lior strives to reveal the unique beauty of Chinese ink painting through a style which is more universal in character and more accessible to a modern international audience. He attempts to explore the world of Chinese ink painting while exploring his own cultural roots.

All the Chinese elements in his works pass through a "cultural filter," making them more universal and approachable. Lior's art is a dialogue between different artistic traditions, a combination of east and west inviting audiences and painters alike to re-examine these traditions from afresh.

Irit Tamari and cut photos

Irit Tamari attempts to explore photography media by carving and inscribing photos to create a surreal world. "My main interest is using photography to expand and explore its boundaries and limitations. Living in China allows me to view

daily life from an outsider's perspective, which ultimately is reflected in my work," Tamari said.

The first phase in her work is collecting appearances of life through the lens. The second one is changing those appearances. "Changing the raw picture by inscribing and peeling its surface, or by cutting the picture – thereby transforming it out of its two dimensional origin to a composed object made of cut photos – have become my searching tool for dealing with questions about appearance and representation," Tamari said.

Basmat Levin and Chinese faces

"I believe that a person's face is a window to his soul. I'm trying to capture this through my paintings," Levin said. "This is my own personal way of exploring China's amazing rich and ancient culture through the faces of its people."

Levin explores a vast range of the human landscape on large canvases. Her painting "Rose" vividly depicts a Chinese lady's face.

Dvir Bar-Gal and Redland series

Dvir Bar-Gal's Redland series are black and white photos which feature prominently the color red.

This color is even titled with the name "Zhongguohong" – "Red China," or "China Red." All the shots were taken with color film. The red objects in the pictures were so in reality," Bar-Gal said.

"As a photographer, what astounded me the most upon my arrival to China was not so much a cultural shock but a visual one. The many grey days in the capital appear to have a huge impact on how many people look at different shades of color."

Nir Elias and documentary photography

The documentary photographs by Nir Elias reveal a rich tapestry of stories that amply reflect the changes in daily life.

After working as a photo journalist in Israel where his work was essentially to cover the Israeli Palestinian conflict, Elias moved to China. In the process, there were changes both subtle and obvious. "As opposed to Israel's stressful environment, here one is forced to keep mindful of the enormous changes that are going on on a daily basis,



Black Rabbit by Amir Pollak

changes which are to my mind, impossible to ignore. I found myself asking how I will chronicle daily events that are gradual, silent as well as multi-dimensional, that are percolating and bubbling all around me," Elias said.

Elias is tackling the need to cover a diversified mix of the new and the old, the rich and the poor, and other changes in this unique time in Chinese history.

Amir Pollak and the Black Rabbit

"In my current work, I am using an analogy between the rabbit that lives in his hole and the artist's way of life," Pollak said, "The rabbit's role as an adorable and cute figure in contemporary western culture allows me to manipulate and terrorize it, while in the end he just keeps on smiling."

China Kan Kan – Israeli Artist in China

Where: NY Arts Beijing Space, 318 Art Park, Hegezhuang, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-4pm, until May 31
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 3298

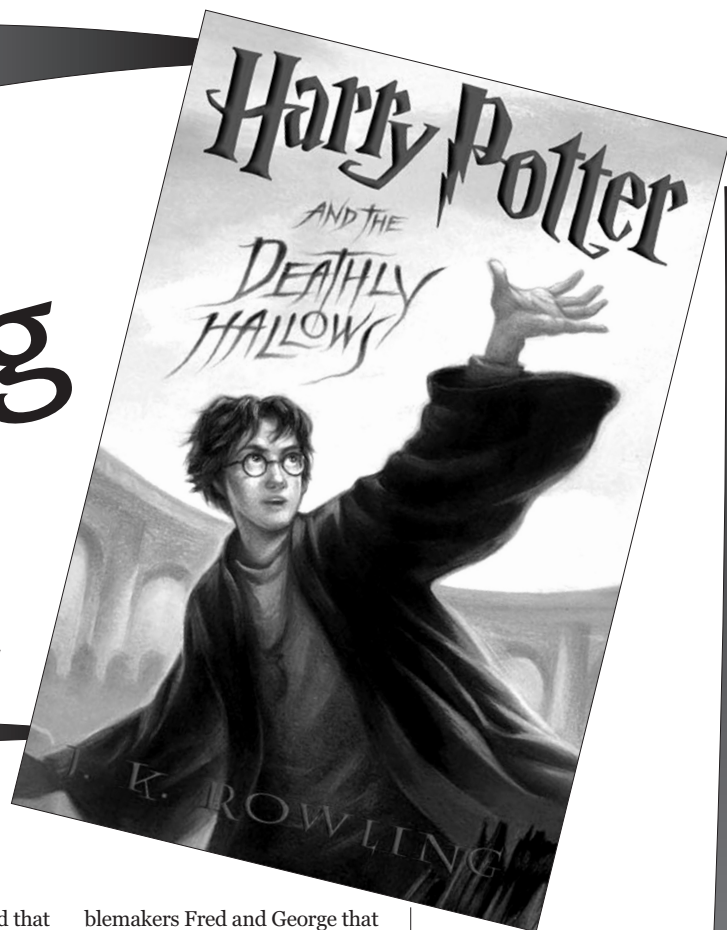


Worker by Fortunee Noel

Choose your own Harry Potter ending

By Gan Tian

Harry Potter (HP) fans don't have to wait for July 21 to see the final installment of the series. Thousands of HP fans are writing their own endings. This week, *Beijing Today* presents Kevin Dangoor's ending, where good overcomes evil and beauty overcomes ugly – just like in the original.



It's not just for fun

We're still waiting.

I mean waiting for *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. J K Rowling made a crazy amount of money with the UK Adult Edition, Children's Edition, Special Edition, US Deluxe Edition ... and so on. But we're being made to wait until July 21.

However, I believe there are good guys in this muggle world. They love this boy in black glasses, and love to predict what will happen to him, they are so certain about their guesses as to put them to paper.

Sadly, they don't get money from Bloomsbury Publishing. Mary GrandPre doesn't do cover art for them, the *New York Times* never puts what they write in their best sellers list and people don't even know about them.

All their work is for the benefit of readers: they let us know what happens next. Well, in their own way. They are our JK Rowlings, and as long as HP fans love their work, the problems they meet aren't really a big deal, right? Just as an HP fan said, "It's never only for fun. We do it because we believe in a world of magic and courage."

The ending is only a beginning

J K Rowling told reporters she has already written the final chapter of the seventh book in the HP series. The chapter tells what happens to the main characters after graduation. This is, doubtless, going to be one of the most sought after documents on the Net, and many forgeries will surface. I decide to make a pre-emptive strike and release my version of the last chapter. Feel free to post a link to your own final chapters in response to my *Harry Potter and the Legend of Sawtooth* (Book 7).

– Dangoor on blueskyonmars.com

Kevin's ending

And with that, Harry Potter's notable career at Hogwarts was officially at an end. Harry and his friends will always look back at these seven years as having been among the best they ever had.

Harry's fond memories of Hogwarts were not overshadowed by the dark experiences he had to face. They also weren't ruined

post after years of trying, and that put him in a particularly lighter mood. He felt like he was almost going to miss Harry. Almost.

Albus Dumbledore could hardly have been more proud of his students. After his long years as a well-respected wizard and Headmaster of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wiz-



by thoughts of summers at the Dursleys. His time at Hogwarts was so liberating compared to living at the Dursleys that Hogwarts stands out in vibrant detail because of the contrast.

The Dursleys were pleased to finally be rid of Harry. Uncle Vernon and Aunt Petunia broke down in tears when their son Dudley left for junior college. After an undistinguished two years at the college, Dudley started his undistinguished career selling insurance. He was keenly aware that he had not treated Harry well, and that Harry could now use magic as much as he liked. To this day, he periodically glances over his shoulder, fearing that Harry will be standing there, wand upraised, casting some spell that will turn him into a toad. This hasn't happened ... yet.

With the Malfoy family fortune greatly in decline, Draco Malfoy was forced to go out and earn his living after Hogwarts. His attempts to get a job in the Ministry of Magic failed time and again, for reasons that will become clear soon. He ended up owning a shop in Nocturne Alley buying and selling dark magic items.

As much as he disliked Harry, Severus Snape finally admitted that Harry was a pretty good wizard after all. Snape was given the Defense Against the Dark Arts

post after years of trying, and that put him in a particularly lighter mood. He felt like he was almost going to miss Harry. Almost.

Minerva McGonagoll was tempted to retire as well, but she enjoyed being the head of Gryffindor house entirely too much for that. Her Transfiguration class continues to be one of the most difficult classes at Hogwarts to this day.

The statue of Hagrid kept his memory with the Hogwarts students for years to come. Over time, Hagrid's deeds were embellished to the point where Hagrid was said to have single-handedly held off an army of trolls, dragons and Lord Voldemort himself for hours as the wizards got their act together. His pet dragon Norbert has often made a stop at Hogwarts to look at the statue of Hagrid, who raised him from his earliest days. Harry would also come back to Hogwarts to see the school and the statue which reminded him of his old friend who had done so much for him.

The Weasleys, who were once scorned by the wealthier wizards because of their relative lack of wealth, finally came into their own. Most thought that if any wealth came to the Weasleys, it would come from Charlie or Percy who were both near the top of their class. But, it was the trou-

blemakers Fred and George that hit it big. The shop that they had opened right after graduation, Weasley Brothers Spell-binding Novelties and Magical Jokes, had been such a huge hit with the students of Hogwarts that the professors were seriously considering restricting trips to Hogsmeade. The second Weasley Brothers location in Diagon Alley was an even greater success.

Ron Weasley decided to head to Romania and learn how to fight dragons from his brother Charlie. After facing his first couple of real dragons, he decided that dragon hunting wasn't his bag of tricks. His bag of tricks, in fact, happened to be tricks. He became a master joke maker and the third partner in Weasley Brothers.

Hermione Granger went on to enjoy a stellar career in wizard academia, eventually becoming the Headmistress of Hogwarts. Her books eventually came to outsell even those of Gilderoy Lockhart. Those books appear in the "P" sections of the library, for Hermione Potter.

After leaving Hogwarts, Harry and Hermione had gone their separate ways. Hermione went on to the prestigious London Institute of Magical Research and Harry went straight into the Ministry of Magic. Though they often got on each other's nerves, Harry and Hermione realized that they were much happier together, and got married after Hermione finished her schooling. Headmistress Hermione Potter and Minister of Magic Harry Potter could not have been happier.

Compared to the excitement and adventure of his childhood, Harry's career in the Ministry of Magic was downright boring. With Voldemort vanquished, dark magic became far less popular, and the wizard population was more peaceful than it had been in generations. Harry was pleased to have had a hand in making the world a better place for his children. Little did he know that his children would face their own unique challenges ...

Comments and responses

Gee, I didn't realize Harry would become Minister for Magic ... or that he would marry Hermione. What happened to Cho Chang and Professor Lupin? And Alastor "Mad Eye" Moody? Also Cornelius Fudge? Was he sacked? I really can't wait for the seventh Harry Potter book to come out.

– Liz Yap Jinny

God! What kind of a name is that!? "The Legend of the Sawtooth"? Why didn't you name it "Harry Potter and the Fat's End"? It sux[sic]! I am a real writer! Yppee[sic]! If I were J K Rowling, I would tell my public to send me ideas, and then I would publish a book with the ideas I liked! So ... with no further to add, this is Shella Madeline, reporting live from Romania, Dragon Country! P.S. let's not forget the vampire stuff ... Oh! And ... I'm a real witch!

– Shella Madeline

It's a very well thought end, but far from the truth. By the way, Shella Madeline, I do live in Romania and there are no such thing as vampires! Maybe witches, if you say so.

– Vanna



Pineapple cabbage rolls with tomato sauce at Banana Leaf
Photo provided by Banana Leaf

Eat five more pieces of fruit everyday

Berries, melons, peaches and plums; what more could say summer? The coolness of these fruits is refreshing in the heat of a summer day. More and more fast food restaurants and fashion eateries are now offering fruit as a healthy option instead of higher-fat items.

French bakery from Korea

By Chu Meng

Paris Baguette is the largest bakery chain in South Korea, with 1,400 stores in Korea and the US. Now, Paris Baguette is here in China, with stores already open in Beijing and Shanghai, and more opening soon.

Owned by the SPC group, which also owns Baskin Robbins and Dunkin' Donuts, Paris Baguette offers a fantastic selection of breads, cakes, sandwiches and beverages. Designed to appeal to both the European palette, and the growing market for cakes in China.

The pastry shop is best known for its wide range of fruitcakes. Banana's Foster Waffles is crispy but tender inside, secretly baked with Rum, butter and a hint of lemon juice. Apple Napoleon is creamy and light with plum sauce and contains hazelnut liquor, apple juice and sauté'd plum dices. Start your morning off with Cream Scones with Yogurt and Fresh Fruit. The mix includes yogurt, blackberries, strawberries, pears, pineapples, apples, dark brown sugar syrup and brandy. The brandy is optional.

With its special gift boxes, you can treat your friends, loved ones or yourself to a box of tempting cakes from beautifully wrapped birthday, walnut and chocolate cakes to Swiss rolls. A gift box coupled with flowers could be the perfect gift for Mother's Day this Sunday.

Paris Baguette

Where: No 1 East Chang'an Jie, B/1 Oriental Plaza, Dongcheng

Open: 10am-9:30pm

Tel: 8518 5266

Cost: 25 yuan per person



Fruit salad at Paris Baguette

Photo provided by Paris Baguette

Banana Leaf – Thailand fruit feast

By Chu Meng

The Banana Leaf chain is spreading Thai cuisine throughout China with its diverse fruit dishes that will have you coming back for more. You can find cold fruit salad or ice cream dishes at any western-style cake stores, but hot dishes made of real fruit are hard to find.

When entering Banana Leaf, visions of a tropical resort town in Thailand abound. Plastic coconuts, bananas, papaya, pineapple and mangoes hang from tropical-looking trees.

Fried Crab in Mango Butter and Spicy Curry is the house specialty. The dish arrives as a whole crab drenched in a thick, buttery curry that is unusually mixed with fresh mango and juice and is not as spicy as you might expect. The crabmeat is difficult to get to as it has not been broken into pieces and there are no utensils. It can get a little messy when everything is drenched in curry.

The Snow Clam Papaya Soup is a perfect blend of sweet and salty. The dish looks beautiful, served in a hollowed-out half-section of papaya with clams floating on the surface. Coconut, papaya, red Chinese dates and snow clam are stewed for three hours with shell bones, which leads to a creamy but salty taste. This dish is also believed to improve muscle structure and smoother skin, at least according to the waiter.

An Indian chef prepares Thai pancakes by rolling the prepared dough by hand until it is as thin as a piece of paper. He then adds some butter and other ingredients, and fries it over a gentle heat until it turns golden and gives off a tempting aroma. The pineapple and coconut pancake are crisp but chewy, with a nice smell of butter filling the air.

Banana Leaf

Where: No4 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 11am-9pm

Tel: 6506 3399

Cost: 80 yuan per person

Mixed fruits make a healthy summer

By Jackie Zhang

Don't be surprised if "Bite me!" is the first thing you see when you enter the Fruity Mix store. On top of serving juices, desserts and entrees made of fresh fruits, the staff bears this hilarious slogan on the back of their black T-shirt uniforms and are also for sale.

You can find Fruity Mix in some of Beijing's most bustling areas, like Wangfujing, Xidan and even in the airport. It is a convenient and comfortable place for you to sit back and relax after a long day. The cosmopolitan cafe mainly serves ice cream and drinks and in these hot summer months it is a great place to cool down. The colors and décor of orange and green apple also projects images of health and well-being.

The fresh fruits are mainly imported from abroad and are kept in the store for only one day. But if they cannot be sold that day, the rest will be discarded.

Zhongshengmeili (beautiful forever) is one of its most popular items. The fragrance and sweet taste of pawpaw is mixed with the thick taste of milk. Together with sago, aloe and Chinese gooseberry, it is also said to be a great way to improve skin problems.

Lianlianzhizun is served in a crystal goblet and is a typical summer dish in southern China. At the bottom, there are green sagoes freezing in ice. Six to eight kinds of fruits like pawpaw, mango, grape, apple, pineapple and Chinese gooseberry are placed in the middle with a big scoop of ice cream on top. It tastes a little bitter,

but has all the effects to help cool you down.

Golden Kiwifruit is a new dish that has been introduced this summer. Served together with iced black sticky rice with thick coconut juice. It looks good and tastes even better.

Fruity Mix stores

Where: B1 of Oriental Plaza,

Wangfujing, Dongcheng

Open: 8:30am-9:30pm

Tel: 85186259

Where: Pacific Century

Tower, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 8:30am-11:30pm

Tel: 65392279

Where: B1 of Juntai Shopping

Center, Xidan, Xicheng

Open: 8:30am-10pm

Tel: 66121581

Cost: 60 per person



Lianlianzhizun

Photo provided by Fruity Mix

Restaurant



Sushi discount

Dine at Yuan Lü Sushi restaurant (6 Jia Dawang Lu, Chaoyang) and enjoy 12 percent off. For reservations, call 6533 1518.



Coffee discount

All coffee at Shang Dao Cafe (SOHO Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang) will be 20 percent off until May 18. For reservations, call 5869 2050.



40 percent off

Go to Da Cai Lou (8 Beitoutiao Tuanjieshu, Chaoyang) after 10pm and enjoy 40 percent off until the end of the month. For reservations, call 6582 1916.



Fish discount

Enjoy grilled fish at Zhu Yu Fang (Wai Jing Mao University, Chaoyang) and receive a free meal until May 30. For reservations, call 6481 2572.



Club event

Put your hands up in the air at The World of Suzie Wong Club (West Gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang) with world-renowned DJ Fedde La Grand of Holland on May 25. For reservations, call 6500 3377.

Send us your discounts & offers.

Email us: bjtoday@ynet.com or call: 6590 2626

Shopping



Computer repair

Visit Newb computer repair center (Buynow 3108, Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang), and receive 15 percent off by presenting this advertisement. For details, call 6599 5826.



Photography discount

Take wedding photos at Quan Shi Studio (Long Fu Plaza Dongsi, Dongcheng) and enjoy 20 percent off until May 19. For details, call 6406 9293.



Dental discount

Get your teeth whitened at SDM Dental (1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chian World Shopping Mall, Chaoyang) and get 30 percent off until the end of May. For details, call 6505 9439.

Others



Free sunglasses

By spending over 500 yuan at Only in Modern Plaza (40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian) you will receive a free pair of sunglasses worth 199 yuan. For details, call 6257 6688.



Aigle discount

Spend 200 yuan at Agile in SOHO (8 Xuanwumen Wai Dajie, Xuanwu) and enjoy 80 yuan off until May 20. For details, call 6310 3388.

(By Terence Lu)

ADVERTISE IN BEIJING TODAY
PLACE YOUR ADVERT NOW AND GET INSTANT RESULTS!

Call: Jian Zhong 139 0135 4788, Xiao'ang 133 8106 4865

BEIJING TODAY Chinglish

推出 重装你的英语系统 删除你的中式表达

过英语八级了 写的文章老外看不懂
英语专业毕业了 口语老外听不懂
看Chinglish版 学地道英语

订阅全年《Beijing Today》优惠价88元，或全价104元/年，并赠送价值380元的奥力健身卡（限前300名订户）更多超值优惠项目等您选

订约：010-6590 2626, 136 0107 4792, btsubscription@ynet.com
 网址: bjtoday.ynet.com
 以上促销活动解释权归Beijing Today

Subscribe for one year to 《Beijing Today》 at a special price of only 88 RMB, or Pay 104 RMB for 12 months of 《Beijing Today》 and a one week trial membership at O-Zone Fitness Club worth 380 RMB (available to the first 300 subscribers). Subscribers will have the chance to win other free gifts

Contact: 010-6590 2626, 136 0107 4792, btsubscription@ynet.com
 Website: bjtoday.ynet.com
 Beijing Today reserves the right to alter its promotional offerings



Photos provided
by Zhaoyu

Zhaoyu's works show his
passion.



Graffiti goes online

By He Jianwei

With restrictions preventing people from doing graffiti on walls, computer screens have turned into the next best medium, and the mouse into a rainbow of spray paints. The word "graffiti" is derived from the Greek word *graphein*, "to write."

Graffiti and graffiti online

As graffiti has grown, so too has its character. What began as an urban lower-income protest now spans all racial and economic groups.

Graffiti shops, both retail and on-line, sell a wide variety of items to taggers. Caps, markers, magazines, T-shirts, backpacks, shorts with hidden pockets, even drawing books with templates of different railroad cars can be purchased.

Over 25,000 graffiti sites exist on the World Wide Web, the majority of which are pro-graffiti. Graffiti vandalism is a problem in nearly every urban area in the world.

Pro-graffiti web sites post photos of graffiti from Europe, South America, the Philippines, Australia, South Africa, China and Japan. Billions of dollars are spent worldwide each year in an effort to curb graffiti.

In China, graffiti sites began appearing in 2002 with the introduction of graffiti software. Several web sites provide graffiti services online, such as mop.com, huoshen.com and poobbs.com. More and more people are getting into the graffiti scene. poobbs.com, for example, has as many as 40,000 users ages 10 to 50.

Available software

Zhao Yu, with the handle "heilichee," is one of China's more famous online graffiti artists. He has a column run in several newspapers and magazines which show off his works.

"One day in 2004 when I surfed to huochen.com at work, I fell in love with it. Online graffiti seems like a window to experience what is forbidden," he said.

What one can do with online graffiti depends on the software. He told me the earliest online graffiti board worked with a special Java applet. "You use the tools in the application to design your graffiti. The software can record when you made it, what tools you used, and even re-draw your pic-

ture step-by-step," he said.

However, you can't save graffiti art drawn using this software. After Macromedia Flash technology became popular online, a new graffiti board built on flash was released. "It's not that effective for showing graffiti by professional artists," he said.

Nowadays, many people use an Oekaki, a message board system that revolves around computer art created by local program. Most people use Picbbs and Paintbbs. These two systems offer a combined drawing and chatting experience. "More people can draw online, and they can watch each other's drawing in real-time," he said.

Way of communication

Zhao Yu believes the spontaneous artistic creation and the interactivity between humans and computers are the charm of online graffiti. "I can draw immediately online and others can see my works and comment on them. I would describe online graffiti in one sentence: you can say goodbye to loneliness, or you can share your loneliness with others," he said.

Every medium can be subject to graffiti. "You could do graffiti on a box, on

paper, on the ground and anywhere you want," he said.

Graffiti is another kind of communication between people about their experiences. "When you walk in the street, you might see faces and apparel, architecture with multiple colors and figures and transportation signs and merchandise logos. As long as you communicate with the outside world, anything can be reflected in your graffiti work," he said.



By Gan Tian

Harry Potter fans owe me big time this week. I know all the fanboys will never be satisfied with the issue if the only thing is related to their four-eyed idol. Don't worry kids, I'm here to save the day. Thank me! So this week, our shopping page will promote *Harry Potter*. "Promotion" ... I hate this word.

Shopping with magic



House scarf

Wearing one of these scarves is like saying "I am put where I ought to be." Different scarves represent different animals, colors and teachers you liked in the book. You can also show your personality: wear a Gryffindor scarf to show you are brave, a Ravenclaw to show you are knowledgeable, a Hufflepuff to show you are loyal or a Slytherin to show your ambitiousness.

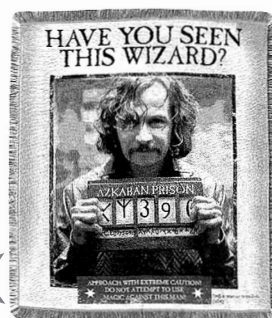
Available: legendarytoys.com
Price: US\$25



Albus Dumbledore's hat

When Dumbledore died in the recent *Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince*, my sister cried a lot. She wouldn't shut up unless I bought her one of these as a "memorial" for the great Dumbledore. Look, I know this is hard to accept, but get over it. He is dead! I'm not sure that putting on this hat and walking on the street will ease your pain.

Available: Dragon (Long Yi Yuan Chuang), No 67, Guozijian Jie, Dongcheng
Price: 38 yuan



Sirius Black "wanted" tapestry throw

Perfect for any room in your house! Place it on your bed, your sofa, the floor or hang it on a wall. Let the world know you are after Sirius Black too, or you will fall in love with him! Anyway, it is really fashionable and at a good price.

Available:
harrypotter.wbshop.com
Price: US\$42.95



Harry Potter wand

Based on the price, I don't think this is really Harry Potter's wand. I'm sticking to my advice from the last time we recommended wands on the shopping page: don't buy it! The wand is just a stupid stick!

Available: B/2, 77 Street, Xidan, Xicheng
Price: 98 yuan



Harry Potter at Yule Ball Doll by Tonner

The Tonner Doll Company produced a series of Harry Potter dolls. "At 17-inches tall, the doll has remarkably-engineered joints with 14 points of articulation, offering unlimited posing and play possibilities" ... at least that's what their ads say. This thing is still a far cry from the Harry in my heart.

Available: harrypotter.wbshop.com
Price: US\$149.95

The Place: enjoy your life

An elegant plaza, a semi-closed walking street and other classical architectural elements work in harmony at The Place located at No 9 Guanghualu, Chaoyang District.

A 250-meter stretch of sky screen stretches overhead and was designed by famous stage designer Jeremy Railton, who has claimed one Oscar and four Emmy Awards.

The Place leads the trend not only in European-style architecture, but as a gathering point for top brands. Well-known Spanish brand ZARA and Korean SJSJ built their first Beijing flagship stores here. MISS SIXTY from Italy also attracts the eyes of millions of trendy girls, and ENERGY's flagship store is trendy in its own spe-

cial way. There is also an Estee Lauder MAC shop here.

But don't think it's all glitz and glamour - The Place can satisfy your tastebuds. CAPONE'S Italian Restaurant & Wine Bar is a great place to experience Italian flavor with an American accent.

Arena Club, themed in red, is a hopping nightlife spot. Unlike the crowded environment of Worker's Stadium, the excess of Chaoyang Park or the chaotic air of Sanlitun, Arena Club is a dream factory of artistic work dropped into a shopping mall.

(By Gan Tian)



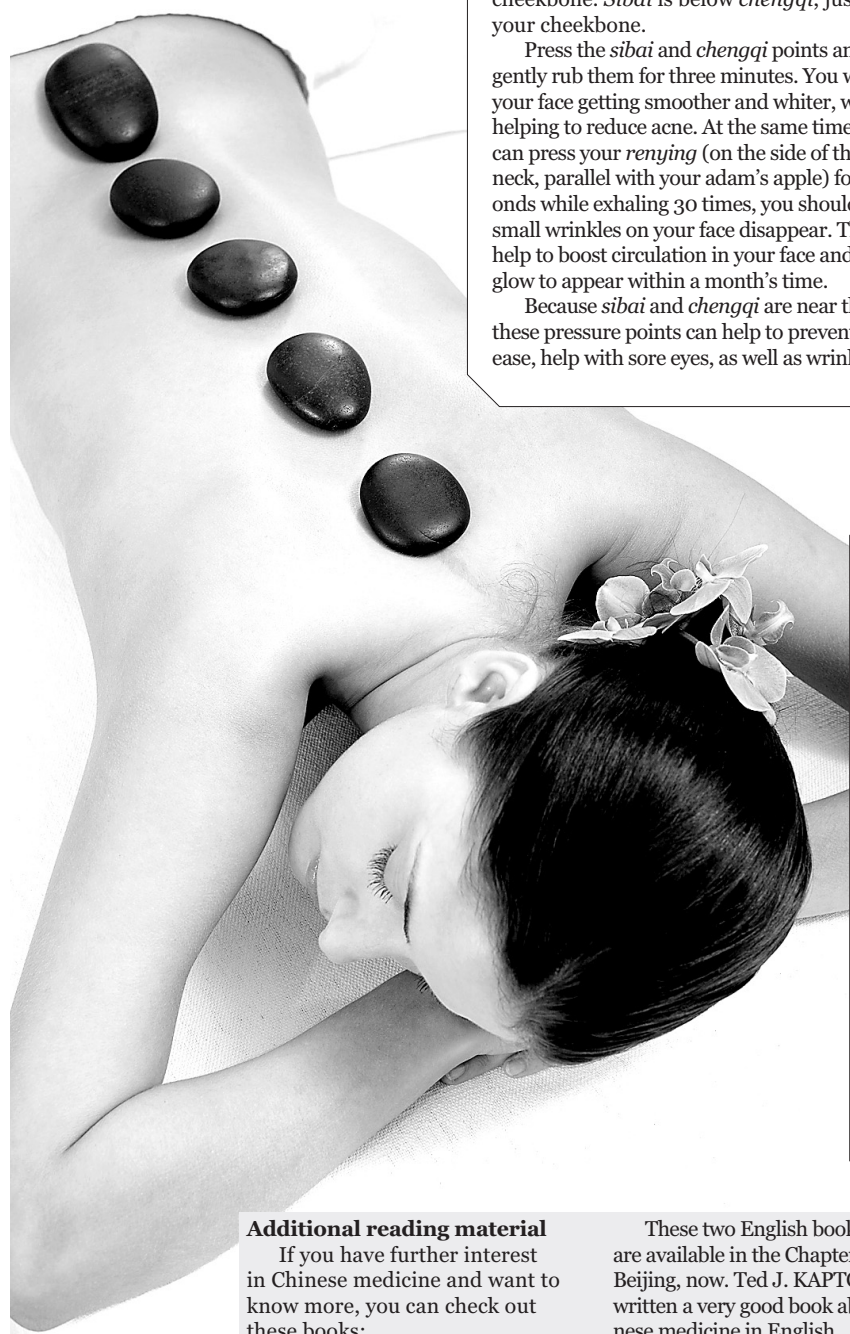
Pointing you in the right direction

By Annie Wei

For many people, traditional Chinese medicine seems mysterious and often mystical. How can targeting specific pressure points alleviate a wide range of conditions?

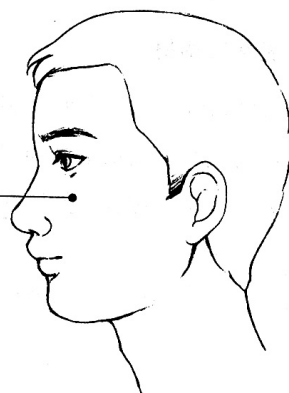
Beijing Today introduces four acupuncture points that everyone can easily find on his or her own body. You can even do it while you are lying on the couch watching TV or a DVD.

In traditional Chinese medicine, a form of bodily energy called chi is seen as a network of channels connected to the major organs. This energy combines with your breath and circulates throughout the body, forming paths called meridians. The meridians form a complex, multilevel network that connects the various areas of the body, both internally and externally. All of the various meridian systems work together to assure the flow and distribution of chi throughout the body, thus controlling all bodily functions.



CFP Photo

四白穴
Sibai



Sibai and chengqi for facial care

The location of *chengqi*: Directly below the pupil, between the eyeball and above the cheekbone. *Sibai* is below *chengqi*, just under your cheekbone.

Press the *sibai* and *chengqi* points and then gently rub them for three minutes. You will find your face getting smoother and whiter, while also helping to reduce acne. At the same time, if you can press your *renying* (on the side of the your neck, parallel with your adam's apple) for six seconds while exhaling 30 times, you should see the small wrinkles on your face disappear. The points help to boost circulation in your face and for a glow to appear within a month's time.

Because *sibai* and *chengqi* are near the eyes, these pressure points can help to prevent eye disease, help with sore eyes, as well as wrinkles.

Taichong to release anger and foul moods

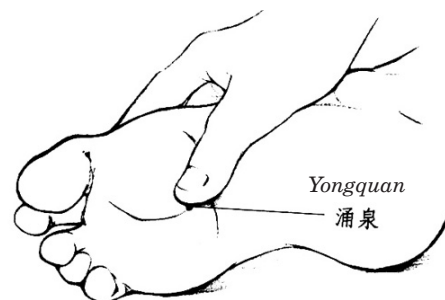
Taichong:

The top of the foot where the big toe bone meets the second toe bone.

Taichong is one of the most important points

in the liver meridian. People who generally have a bad temper and get angry easily can press this point for two minutes per day. At the start, it should feel swollen and sore.

Women who usually have irregular menstrual cycles or feel uneasy before their period, can try *taichong* to battle irritability and anger. However, they should not press *taichong* during their period, it should only be done five days before. Try to press *taichong* for five minutes a day, within two months, your situation should improve, resulting in your mood improving and having less pain during your cycle.



Yongquan, to improve cold hands and feet in winter

The location of *yongquan*: On the sole, in the exact center of the foot.

During the winter months, it is common for women to have cold hands and feet. In western medicine, it's often referred to as bad circulation. In Chinese traditional medicine, it's believed that *han* (cold) blocks the circulation. It is recommended to soak your feet in warm water for 30 minutes everyday before going to bed and to press your *yongquan* point at the same time. It will boost up your circulation and allow you to sleep much easier.

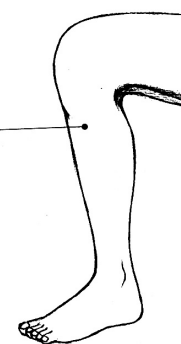
Zusanli for losing weight and stomach problems

There are many reasons why people gain weight. One of the most common reasons is poor metabolism. Some people will never get fat by eating "like a pig" because their body has a good metabolism. What they eat can turn into energy very quickly. These people are normally healthy and energetic most of the time. Doctors of Chinese medicine believe that some people get fat not because they eat too much, but because they eat too little, which results in the body lacking enough energy to get rid of the waste inside their body.

Pressing the key points of the stomach meridian and massaging the merid-

ian line can help to lose weight. However, it's often too complicated and difficult to master all the meridians and key points for the average person. In fact, it's not necessary to push the points accurately – it is not like being injected with a needle. What you need is to slightly pat or knock the meridian line with your hands. You should knock the inner and outer side of

足三里
Zusanli



your legs and then press *zusanli* (below the knee on the outside of your shin bone). At the beginning, people with a poor appetite and weak digestion, pressing *zusanli* will often lead to feeling swollen and sore. Within a few days though, your stomach should feel much better.

Additional reading material

If you have further interest in Chinese medicine and want to know more, you can check out these books:

Chinese medicine: the web that has no weaver, by Ted J. KAPTCHUK, Random House
Chinese Medicine published by Carlton Books Limited

These two English books above are available in the Chapterhouse, Beijing, now. Ted J. KAPTCHUK has written a very good book about Chinese medicine in English.

Qiuji buru Qiuji (asking for yourself instead of doctor), written by Zhonglibaren, published by China Chinese Medicine Publishing House.
Rentijingluo shiyong shouce

(Users' guide to meridians), written by Xiao Yansheng, published by China Chinese Medicine Publishing House.

The two books above are both excellent and recently published. They are written in very easily understood Chinese, introducing many simple ways for daily care, as well as simple Chinese massage

readers can do.

The New Wall Map of Standard meridians and Points of Acupuncture and Tuina, published by the Jiangsu Science and Technology Publishing house can be bought from Chinese medicine stores. It has three big-scale maps and a book that introduces all the points in English and Chinese.



Breaking out of the slam

The Ming-style Su San Prison

By Zhang Nan

In the southwestern part of Hongdong County in Shanxi is located the Mingdai (Ming Dynasty) Prison, a Ming (1368-1644) prison with a history of more than 600 years, is in surprisingly good condition.

Mingdai Prison earned its other name "Su San Prison" for the jailing of Su San, a famous Ming Dynasty prostitute.

Su's story is famous and has been performed in the traditional Chinese opera *Yutangchun*. She was wrongly accused and jailed in prison waiting for death. Su was not released until her lover became a government official and caught the real criminal.

Both the prison and the hall where Su was interrogated are a part of Yamun County. A showroom for Su's statue with information on her case are on display in the front courtyard.

A worker at the prison said the files on Su's case were sealed before 1920, but still aren't displayed for the public.

The duty office, cells for convicts awaiting execution and temple for the god of prisons is at the end of the passage. A stone sculpture of god of prisons is set into a wall. At the foot of the wall, there is a hole for dragging the dead criminal's body out. According to ancient prison rules, criminals who died of sudden disease or inquisition by torture could not be taken out of the prison through the gate.

The entrance for convicts sentenced to death is opposite to the temple of the god of prisons. An image of Bi'an, once a legendary beast said to manage prisons, is carved atop the entrance. The low, 1.5-meter opening forced all criminals entering to bow their head and show respect for the law.

Through the gate lie another two doors: one which opens from the right and the other from the left. The doors were designed so that if criminals tried to escape, they wouldn't be able to figure out which door to use in the chaos of a prison break.

Beyond the doors lies the prison which jailed Su. The walls in the prison for condemned inmates is thicker and higher than in ordinary prisons. The walls are full of silver sand that fell to fill in any holes prisoners attempted to make. The well in the prison's courtyard was 20 to 30 centimeters across to prevent criminals from committing suicide.

Getting there: The prison is at No 66, Guhuai Nan Lu, Hongdong County, Shanxi Province. The best route starts in Linfen City, Shanxi Province.

Tel: 0357-622 6127

Cost: 30 yuan per person



The Ming-style Su San Prison has become a tourist attraction today.

By He Jianwei

Walls – at first glance just brick and mortar – contain untold stories of the past. With Prison Break fever spreading through China, many people have become curious about life behind bars.

A visit to prisons of the past might be enough to satisfy human curiosity.

Shockingly, it seems many prisons of the past have become cultural symbols of the communities they once contained.



The two-story building of Baigongguan makes it easy to keep watching the prisoners in the courtyard.

Close to the stories – Zhazidong and Baigongguan



From left to right: Inside of the confession room in Zhazidong, isolation corner in Baigongguan, slogans in Zhazidong persuaded young Communists to value their life and youth.

Photos provided by drs2biz.com

By He Jianwei

At the northern foot of the Gele Mountains in Chongqing stand two well-known prisons: Baigongguan and Zhazidong. In these two prisons, the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) jailed and killed more than 300 Communist revolutionaries before fleeing to Taiwan in 1949.

Today, the prisons have been turned into a museum for communist martyrs who were executed and brutalized by the KMT in Chongqing.

The construction of several KMT prisons was supervised by the Sino-American Cooperation Organization (SACO), secretly established in 1943 and through which the US helped to train and dispatch KMT secret agents.

The Zhazidong prison was the site of a coal mine until SACO chose neighboring Baigongguan prison as their

headquarters and converted the mine into a prison.

Zhazidong could hold 300 prisoners at most, with 16 wards for men and 2 for women. There were also offices, torture chambers and accommodations for prison guards.

On November 27, 1949, less than two months after Mao Zedong proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China in Tian'anmen Square, SACO agents set fire to the male prison wards at Zhazidong, killing all but 15 who managed to break through a section of wall.

"Most of the rooms at Zhazidong were filled with photos and information to memorialize the men and women who had been formerly imprisoned, many of whom were killed in the November 27 fire," Mei Ting, from Jiangsu, who visited the prisons with

her mother this February, said.

Several exhibits also displayed songs and poems that some of the prisoners had written while at Zhazidong. All along the walls were different KMT slogans, some encouraging the prisoners to change their beliefs.

Though parts of the compound destroyed in the fire have been reconstructed for educational purposes, a dotted line still marks the hole through which a few survivors escaped.

"I was familiar with the stories here through novels and movies, but it's the first time for me to see the instruments of torture and I was really hit by the reality of this prison," she said.

Getting there: Take Bus 210 from Shapingba to Baigongguan and Zhazidong

Open: 8am-5pm

Cost: 40 yuan per person



From left: Inside of the jails, a glimpse of the free world outside and the underground cells in Dongbeilao

All quiet in downtown – HK's Victoria Prison

By He Jianwei

Hong Kong's Central District, an area crammed full of skyscrapers and modern ladies toting LV bags, is one of the last places one would imagine finding a prison.

The prison is silently tucked away less than five-minutes from the Central District Subway Station. Ferraris parked in front of the prison every day stand in dramatic juxtaposition to the 160-year-old Victorian compound.

Constructed in 1841 and situated between Old Bailey Street and Arbuthnot Road in the Central District, Victoria Prison was the island's first penal center.

The institution was a medium-security prison for detaining of prisoners and non-local residents who were completing a sentence pending deportation. It has now become a tourist destination.

The Central & Western District Council, together with several professional bodies and local organizations, jointly organized a function named "Journey to the History of Victoria Prison" in January 2007. One of the exhibits, "Prison Art Museum," cooperated by the Artist Commune, incorporated elements of art into the heritage compound.

A tourist under the pseudonym "Dongbeilao" from the Chinese mainland visited with his wife in January on opening day. "As I stood in the prison yard, I found the trees in the yard looked wired and ugly. They resembled the trees painted by the Eight

Eccentric Painters of Yangzhou in Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)," he said.

"The cells in the prison looked somber and gruesome. When I looked at the sky through the iron grates, I understood why prisoners desired to fly away, and had a deeper understanding about the importance of freedom," he said.

The oldest structure within the compound is a barrack block built in 1864, adjacent to Victoria Prison. In 1919, its Headquarters Block facing Hollywood Road was constructed. Then, in 1925, a Stable Block was constructed at the

northwest end of the parade ground, and was later used as an armory. The Police Station, the former Central Magistracy and Victoria Prison form an architecture block which represents law and order in colonial Hong Kong.

Getting there: Victoria Prison is at No 16 Old Bailey Street, Central District. From Central Metro station (Exit D1), walk along Pedder Street to Wyndham Street, then follow it right as it turns into Hollywood Road.

Old Bailey Street is on the left, just past the Central Police Station.



Victoria Prison
Photos by Mocyd Leung

Island prison or paradise – Taiwan's Green Island Prison

By He Jianwei

The clear and shallow seas, the shadow of coconut palms and the warm breeze are the first impression about the Green Island in most Chinese minds, images described in the song "Green Island Serenade."

"This Green Island is like a boat, swaying in the moonlit night. Oh girl, just like you are floating in the sea of my heart. Let my song follow that breeze, wafting open the curtains to your heart. Let my passion follow that stream, ceaselessly murmuring to you." The song "Green Island Serenade" sung by Vienna Teng was all I know about the Green Island.

The Green Island's Portuguese name, "Ilha de Formosa" – which translates to "the beautiful island" – was once known as "Fire-Burned Island." Located 33 kilometers into the sea east of Taitung, the Green Island is composed of volcanic conglomerate. Weathering an erosion over the eons has formed it into a curving coastline.

Green Island Prison, a symbol of the White Terror period (1949-1987) in which thousands lost their lives and countless more were politically persecuted, closed down in 2002.

From 1951 until the end of martial law in 1987, the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) sent more than 20,000 political prisoners to Green Island, a tropical mixture of pristine beaches and dense vegetation atop a mountainous dollop of volcanic rock.

Hu Yangying, a graduate student, visited the prison with his classmates.

"The Green Island has become a cultural symbol in Taiwan's history. Skipping out on visiting its prison is a lot like going to Hawaii without laying on the beach," he said.

Green Island possesses a multitude of attractions that make it an oceanic paradise isolated from the mundane world: lofty rocks in fascinating shapes, seaside cliffs, a white beach, verdant grasslands, rare seawater hot springs, splendid coral reefs, beautiful undersea scenery and a wide variety of plant and animal life.

A round-the-island highway about 18 kilometers long gives visitors access to all of the island's main attractions. All you have to do is rent a motorcycle or car, or even walk – if you have all the day.

Getting there: Mandarin Airlines serves the Taitung - Green Island route. Mandarin Airlines, Taitung Station: 089-362 669

Bus: From Taitung, take the Dingtung Bus bound for Chenggong, Hualien and get off at Fugang stop, then take ferry to Green Island. Dintung Bus: 089-328 269

Ferry: From Fugang Harbor in Taitung, take the Gold Star, Superstar, Victory or Star of Green Island ferry to Green Island.

Gold Star: 089-281 477; Superstar: 089-280 280; Victory: 089-281 047; Star of Green Island: 089-330 756

Car Rental in Green Island:

Motorcycle: 175 yuan per day;

Bicycle: 50-75 yuan per day



A distance view of the Green Island Prison
Photo by Xu Weiyan

Starring:

Tobey Maguire, Homer Wells
Charlize Theron, Candy Kendall
Michael Caine, Wilbur Larch
Jane Alexander, Edna
Cathy Baker, Angela

Synopsis:

Homer is an orphan in remote St. Cloud, Maine. He becomes the favorite of an orphanage director called Dr. Larch, who teaches Homer all he needs to know about medicine. Homer becomes a competent and skilled doctor, but has no license to practice. Homer wants one thing Larch cannot give him... He yearns for a life outside the orphanage. Homer works on Wally's family apple farm. Homer realizes there is an entirely new world to discover. His new life provides more excitement than he could have ever imagined, especially when Homer falls in love with Candy after Wally goes off to war (Candy also falls pregnant with Homer but has an abortion). When forced to make decisions that will change the course of his future, Homer ultimately realizes he can't escape his past.



IC Photos

The Cider House Rules

(1999)



Scene 1: Orphanage kitchen – late afternoon

(Angela and Edna are helping serving the evening meal. The sound of children in the dining hall is intermittent and chaotic. Dr. Larch tells the nurses that Homer is leaving.)

Edna: Going where? Does he have a plan of some kind?

Angela: Will he be back soon?

Larch: I don't know! He's just leaving- you're the one who says he needs to see the world ⁽¹⁾! "That's what he'll do- he'll see the world!"

Edna: *(stunned)* He's

leaving ...

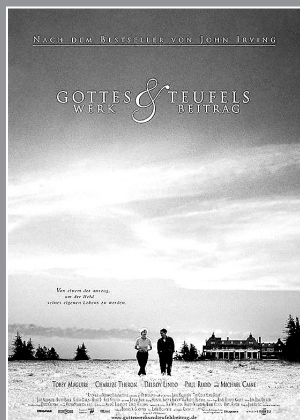
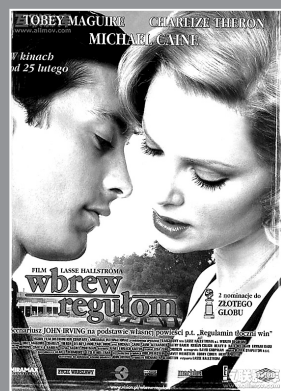
Angela: He'll need clothes... some money...

Larch: Let him try to make some money! That's part of "seeing the world," isn't it?

Angela: *(angrily)* Oh, just stop it! You knew this was going to happen. He's a young man.

Larch: He's still a boy - out in the world, he's still a boy.

Angela: Just find him some clothes, Wilbur. He could use some clothes.



Scene 2: Larch's office, orphanage – night

(The board of the trustee writes to Dr. Larch stating that they consider that it would be better to find someone younger to look after the orphanage. Larch decides to make Homer his successor.)

Angela: *(quoting the letter)* Uh... "merely suggesting that some new blood ⁽²⁾ might benefit you all ... someone with new ideas in the obstetric ⁽³⁾ and pediatric ⁽⁴⁾ fields." I think they're just testing some ideas for our next meeting.

Edna: Dr. Holtz seems nice. I think he only wants to help...

Larch: He is a goddamn psychiatrist - of course he wants to "help"! He'd be happy if he could help commit me!

Angela: It's that Mrs. Goodhall you have to be careful of, Wilbur.

Larch: One has to be more than "careful" of Mrs. Goodhall - she has sufficient Christian zeal ⁽⁵⁾ to start her own country! I'd like to give her a little ether.

Edna: So what are you going to do?

(Larch puts down the pen, comes around the easel, opens a drawer in a filing cabinet, and hands Edna a folder containing a few cleanly typed pages. Larch returns to the easel, to his painstaking work. Edna opens the file; as she and Angela read the contents, Larch recites from memory as he works.)

Larch: Take this. "Homer Wells, born Portland, Maine, March 2, 1915 ..."

Edna: Homer was born here, in, what was it, 1922?

Larch: "... graduated Bowdoin College, 1935, and Harvard School of Medicine, 1939."

Angela: That's you, Wilbur! You went there!

Larch: "An internship and two years of training at the Boston Lying-in ⁽⁶⁾, South End Branch. He was judged an accomplished gynecological obstetrical surgeon; he is also experienced in pediatric care ..."

Angela: That's not him! Wilbur, you are making this up ⁽⁷⁾!

Larch: Angela, the board is going to replace me! That's what "new blood" is for!

Edna: You mean they'll replace you with someone who doesn't perform abortions.

Larch: *(sarcastically)* Well, Edna, it's illegal to perform abortions you know.

Angela: These credentials ⁽⁸⁾ are highly questionable!

Larch: We all know I trained Homer - so his credentials are as good as mine. Don't throw the book at me! What has the law ever done for anyone here?



Scene 3: Cape Kenneth/Wally's car – night

(Candy is driving Homer back to the cider house. They pass by an outdoor theater.)

Homer: What is that?

Candy: It's a drive-in ⁽⁹⁾ movie theater?

Homer: It's a movie outside?

Candy: Yeah.

Homer: Oh, can we see it?

Candy: Okay. It's closed now because of the blackouts ⁽¹⁰⁾.

Homer: Oh. It's so big.

Candy: You smoke? You want a cigarette?

Homer: Okay.

Candy: Wally would kill me if he saw me doing this. There you go.

Homer: Thanks.

Candy: So do you like movies?

Homer: Yes. Seen only one, though.

Candy: You've seen only one? Which one?

Homer: Uh, "King Kong." It's really good.

Vocabulary

1. To see the world: to travel around and gain ideas about people and things somewhere else.

2. New blood: people with a lot of energy or fresh ideas who are brought into an organization in order to improve it.

3. Obstetric: relating to the area of medicine which deals with pregnancy and the birth of babies.

4. Pediatric: relating to the medical care of children.

5. Zeal: great enthusiasm or eagerness.

6. Lying-in: the period during which a woman remains in bed before the birth of a child.

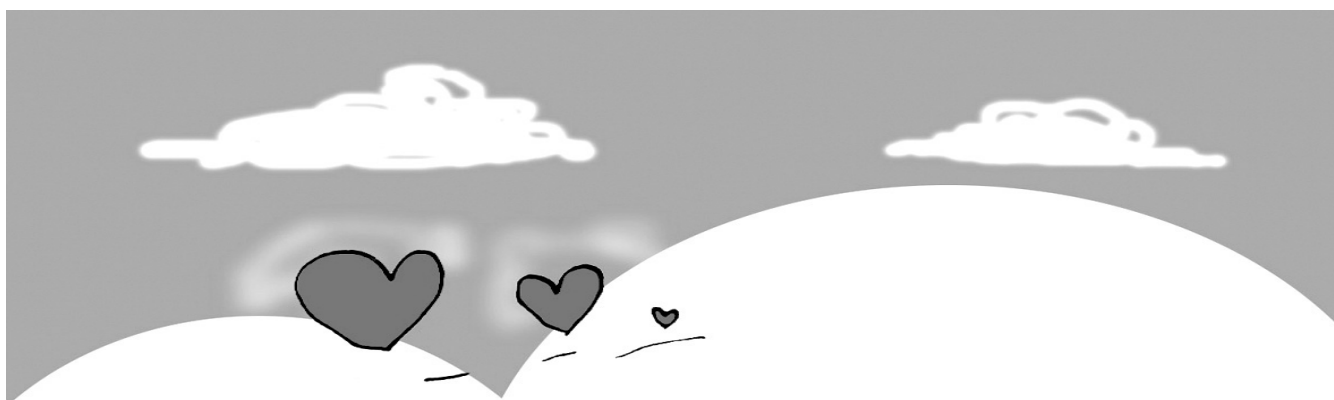
7. To make up: to invent something, such as an excuse or a story, often in order to deceive.

8. Credentials: plural noun, the abilities and experience which make someone suitable for a particular job or activity, or proof of someone's abilities and experience.

9. Drive-in: a drive-in bank, cinema, restaurant, etc. is one that you can use or visit without getting out of your car.

10. Blackout: a time when all lights must be hidden by law, or when there is no light or power because of an electricity failure.

(By Jiang Xubo)



Chinglish story

This column is drawn from amusing daily Chinglish mistakes. If you have any comical experiences to share, send them to Shirley at Shirley_chen@ynet.com.

A questionable marriage proposal

By Shida Zhu

Similar English phrases may have nuances of difference, and some may be diametrically opposed to each other with just minor additions such as a definite article.

Once, an English-speaking man met a Chinese girl. They got along quite well and the man fell in love with her. He

was head over heels with her and finally proposed marriage.

"May I have your hand?" The man asked. "I wish to marry you."

The Chinese girl replied: "It's out of question."

The man thought that his loved one consented and he decided to make the necessary wedding plans. He bought an

apartment, furniture and other homely items.

On the eve of the wedding day, the man told the girl that he is the happiest man on earth as he is going to marry her.

The girl, however, responded as follows: "How is that possible? I never agreed to your marriage proposal."

The man said, "You said that

it is out of question."

It turns out that the girl wanted to say, "It's out of the question" instead of "It's out of question."

If you look it up in Webster's Dictionary, you will find that "out of question" means "doubtless." "Out of the question," in contrast, means "impossible."

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch for it each week.

By Shida Zhu

1. "Championship"

Some people are always confused with "championship" and "championships." When you mean a sports contest or meet, you say "championships," for example, the 10th World Swimming Championships or the Pine Valley Golf Championships. "Championships," in contrast, refers to a series of competitions or contests to determine a champion. For instance, Liu Xiang won the championship in the 200m hurdles at the World Track and Field Championships.

2. "A panda couple"

"A couple" usually refers to a husband and a wife. In this phrase, "panda" is an attributive. You can simply say "a panda couple" which means "a male and a female panda." If you say "a couple of pandas," it may mean "more than two pandas," which has nothing to do with a male and female panda.

3. "At the 10th anniversary"

When you wish to express a time frame with the word "anniversary," you have to use the phrase "on the occasion of." It is wrong to use the preposition "at." For instance, you will never say "At the 10th anniversary of the founding of the company." You have to say "On the 10th anniversary."

4. "Farm regions"

When you wish to denote an agricultural region, you'd better say "farming region." Farming pertains to farms and agriculture.

5. "Feel shame"

In this sense, the verb "feel" is always used as a double predicate, to be followed by an adjective. So, you will have to say "feel ashamed" instead of "feel shame." Similarly, you will not say "feel happiness" but say "feel happy."

One step from Chinglish

Below are word-pairs so similar, they often confuse non-native English speakers. Some mistakes have even led to Chinglish jokes.

By Chen Shasha

1. Chuck / Chunk

In casual conversation, you may get by with saying "Chuck [throw] me that monkey wrench, will you?" But you will also hear "Chunk me that wrench." This is a fairly common substitution in some dialects of American English.

2. Fate / Fateful

A "fatal" event is a deadly one; a "fateful" one is determined by fate. If there are no casualties lying at the scene—whether mangled corpses or failed negotiations—the word you are seeking is "fateful." The latter also has carries positive connotations, such as "Jim fondly remembered that fateful night in which he first met the woman he was to love to his dying day."

3. Empathy / Sympathy

If you think you feel just like another person, you are feeling empathy. If you just feel sorry for another person, you're feeling sympathy.

4. Flesh out / Flush out

To "flesh out" an idea is to give it substance. To "flush out" a criminal is to drive him or her out into the open. The latter is derived from bird-hunting. If you are trying to develop something further, use "flesh"; but if you are trying to reveal something hitherto concealed, use "flush."

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen @ ynet.com with your name and address.

Highway with in the North

By Ari Savitzky

This sign, from the national highway in Miyun, makes absolutely no sense.

For starters, how did the words "with in the North," "expected" and "Zhatu" get into this translation? The first two aren't even in the Chinese version, and the last one, although in pinyin, is actually still Chinese. While some foreigners might understand gongbaojiding, if they know zhatu, or "waste earth," then they can probably read the sign in Chinese characters.

Here's a literal version, which sounds like the original, but somewhat cleaned up: "Within the highway limits, it

is prohibited to set up hawking, establish points, pile objects, pile matter or dump garbage or waste earth." See, isn't it a lot better after "with in the North" is removed?

Let's clean up that list of nono's. Hawking, more than just setting up your hawking area, is probably what's really discouraged, so let's cut "set up." Let's also change "points" to "checkpoints," meaning a roadside stopping point. What is



piling objects, or piling matter? If the terms themselves are a little vague, at least we can agree that they are the same thing. How about just piling objects?

Next, let's change the verbs to gerunds, and say "along the highway" instead of "within the highway limits." Our newly ordered sentence: "Hawking, establishing checkpoints, piling objects and dumping garbage or waste earth are prohibited along the highway."



CFP Photo

Friday, May 11

Exhibition China & Korean Contemporary Art Exhibition



Where: 798 Space, No 4
Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10:30am-
6:30pm, until May 14
Admission: Free
Tel: 6437 6248, 6438 4862

The Missing Memory of Fine Arts History – Wang Mingxian Solo Exhibition

Where: Wall Art Museum,
6/F, Tower B Fullink Plaza,
No 18 Chaoyangmen Wai
Dajie, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-7pm,
until May 19
Admission: Free
Tel: 86184138, 13701078774

Translucent Text – Group exhibition

Where: 798/Red Gate Gal-
lery, Dashanzi Art District, No 2
Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm,
until May 20
Admission: Free
Tel: 6525 1005

Li Yun's Oil Paintings

Where: Beijing Central Art
Gallery, 02 Riverville Square,
Tianzhu, Shunyi

When: Daily 9am-7pm,
until May 18
Admission: Free
Tel: 6450 8483, 6450 8646

Movie

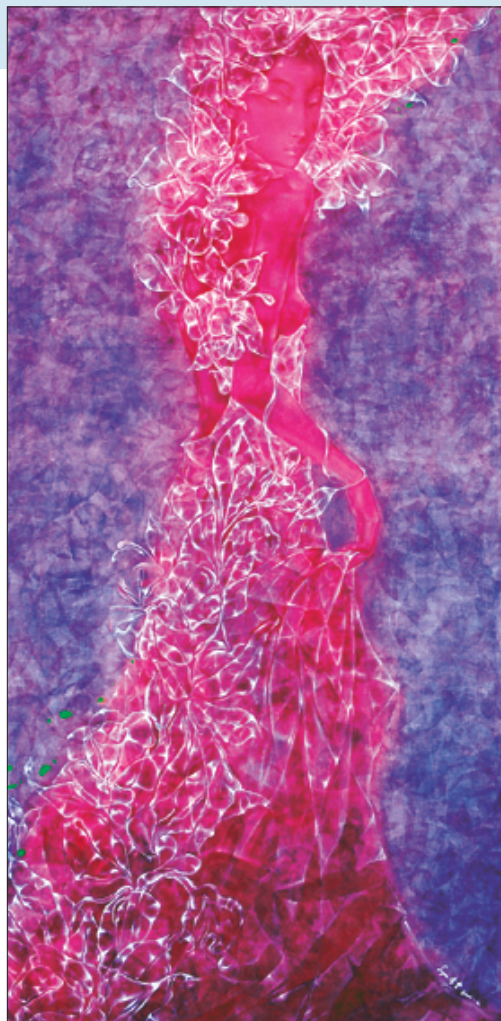
La patinoire (The Ice Rink)



It's a comedy about a movie-
maker and his staff who are pro-
ducing a film on an ice rink. An
American actor arrives on set
to find a wacky cast of charac-
ters: a director truly willing to
suffer for his art, the entire Lith-
uanian national hockey team,
their ditzzy interpreter, a crew
that can't skate to save their
lives, and an extremely per-
sistent video crew shooting a
"making of" documentary.

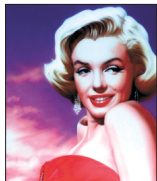
Where: French Culture Center,
18 Guangcai International Apart-
ments, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



Saturday, May 12

Exhibition Far Away – Hui Xin Solo Show



Where: China Art Season,
No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm,
until June 9
Admission: Free
Tel: 6431 1900

2007 Solo Exhibition of Xiao Se's Oil Paintings

Where: The Fifth Element
Gallery, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu,
Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm,
until May 26
Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 1338 May Flower – Pang Yuan Solo Exhibition



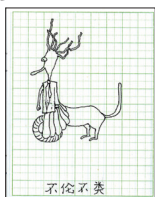
Where: Melodic Gallery, 14
Jianguomen Wai Dajie, oppo-
site Friendship Store, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-4:30pm,
until May 25
Admission: Free
Tel: 6515 8123

Color Ink Paintings' Group Exhibition

Where: New Art Center, No
136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng
When: Daily 9:30am-6pm,
until May 25



Admission: Free
Tel: 6526 8098, 6528 9103
Life Is Elsewhere
– Yin Qi Solo Exhibition



Where: Soka Art Centre,
Room 101, Building B, Sky &
Sea Plaza, No 107 Dongsu Bei
Dajie, Dongcheng
When: Tue-Sun 10am-9pm,
until May 27

Admission: Free Tel: 8401 5810, 8401 2377 Movie Confituur



A distressed man is fed up
with his simple life at home, his
wife and his domineering sister
who has fallen ill. He wants to
break out of his conservative life
and get on with something new.

Where: French Culture
Center, 18 Guangcai Interna-
tional Apartments, Gongti Xi
Lu, Chaoyang
When: 5pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Sunday, May 13

Exhibition Group Show of Modern Western Artists



The show features original
etchings, rugs, paintings, sculp-
tures ... Featuring renowned
western artists including, Dali,
Miro, Buffet, Sosno, Indiana,
Vasarely, Cesar and Arman.

Where: 89 Promenade Des
Arts Gallery, Room 1010, Build-
ing D, Lanbao Gongyu, No 3 Xi
Dawang Lu, Chaoyang

When: Open every Wednes-
day, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
from 3pm to 9pm, or daily by

appointment, until May 30
Admission: Free
Tel: 8599 9974

Dialogue – Group Exhibition featuring South Korea and Chinese artists

Where: Beijing Keumsan
Gallery, B-024 Dashanzi Huan-
tie Nei, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm,
until June 10

Admission: Free
Tel: 6436 6176

Huang Jinming Solo Exhibition



Where: Beijing Art Now Gal-
lery, Worker's Stadium, oppo-
site Gate 12, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm,
until June 20

Admission: Free
Tel: 6551 1632
**The Process of
responding – Chen
Ruobing Solo Exhibition**



Where: One Moon Art,
Inside Ditan Park, Dongcheng
When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm,
until July 15
Admission: Free

Tel: 6427 7748 Movie Quand la mer monte



A movie about the loneliness
of artists on tour, the kindness
and simplicity of people from
the North of France and last but
not least, a love story between
two ordinary people.

Where: French Culture
Center, 18 Guangcai Interna-
tional Apartments, Gongti Xi
Lu, Chaoyang
When: 5pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Stage in June

Music

Richard Wagner: Tristan und Isolde (concert version)

Who: China Philharmonic
Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No
14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu,
Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, June 3
Admission: 280-880 yuan

French Piano Festival 2007 Beijing

Who: Jacky Terrasson,
David Fray and Dana Ciocarlie

Where: Zhongshan Music
Hall, inside Zhongshan Park,
Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, June 8-10
Admission: 30-380 yuan

Vitas China Tour Beijing Concert

Who: Latvian-born Rus-
sian crooner Vitas who became
the most popular touring act
in the world's largest country
over the past few years.

Where: Great Hall of the
People, west of Tiananmen
Square, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, June 15
Admission: 180-1,680 yuan

Closing concert of China Philharmonic Orchestra Season 2007

Who: China Philharmonic
Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No
14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu,
Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, June 30
Admission: 50-680 yuan

Drama Andersen

Countless people are
familiar with Hans Christian
Andersen's fairy tales, but
few know about his past.
This play focuses on his per-
sonal life. Five theaters in
the downtown area are dec-
orated in different themes
from each of his fairy tales.
The show will be shown at the
same locations along with The
Little Mermaid, Ugly Duck-
ling, and The Real Princess.

Who: Beijing Children's
Art Theatre

Where: Century Theater,
Chang'an Theater, Haidian
Theater and Tianqiao Theater

When: 7:30pm, June 1-3
Admission: 80-580 yuan

Blind City

A performance based on
the famous novel "Blindness,"
by Jose Saramago.

Who: The National Theatre
Company of China

Where: PLA Song and
Dance Theater, No 60
Deshengmen Nei Dajie,
Xicheng District

When: 7:30pm, June 6-17
Admission: 40-380 yuan

I Love You

A Chinese version of
Broadway's popular romantic
comedy "I Love You, You're
Perfect, Now Change".

Who: Lin Yilun, Yu Yi, Wen
Yang and Ma Qingli

Where: Poly Theater, No
14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu,
Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,
June 20-24
Admission: 180-880 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)